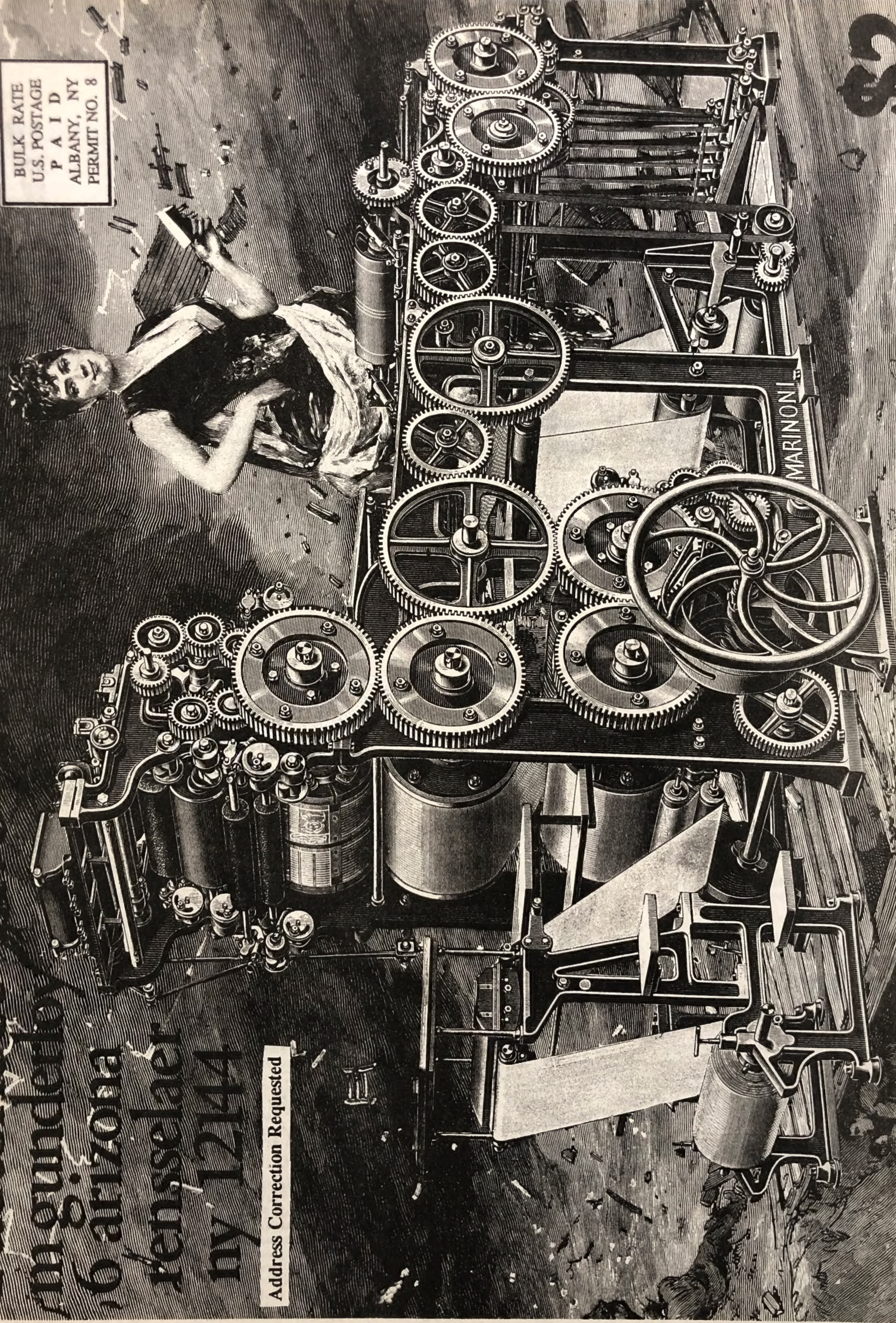


Factsheet
Am gundenloy
16 arizona
Rensselaer
ny 12144

Address Correction Requested

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ISSN 0890-6823



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Column headings by
Carrie
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Nancy G. McClernan
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Front Cover by
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Moral Support & Production Assistance
Carolyn MacDonald

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FACTSHEET FIVE is published four times a year, appearing
in the mails during the first week of February, May, August
and November. [As of 4/87 we are back on schedule, praise
"Bob"!]. Subscriptions are available at \$2.00 (cash, check, MO
or mint US postage stamps) per issue, up to 4 issues in
advance. These copies are sent Bulk Mail within the US,
First Class to Canada and Mexico, and Surface Mail overseas.

First class subscriptions within the US are available at
\$2.75 per issue, while Overseas Airmail may be had for \$5.00
per issue. A Lifetime Subscription, with First Class mailing
anywhere on the continent, is \$50. If anyone wants an Overseas
Lifetime Subscription, I'll negotiate.

Deadlines for FACTSHEET FIVE are the 20th of January,
April, July and October.

FACTSHEET FIVE advertising space is available as follows:

	Unreduced	To be reduced
Full Page	7 1/2" x 9 3/4"	11 1/4" x 14 3/4"
Half Page	7 1/2" x 4 3/4"	11 1/4" x 7 1/4"
Half Page	3 3/4" x 9 3/4"	5 1/2" x 14 3/4"
Quarter Page	3 3/4" x 4 3/4"	5 1/2" x 7 1/4"
Eighth Page	3 3/4" x 2 1/4"	5 1/2" x 3 1/4"
Business Card	2 1/4" x 2"	3 1/2" x 3"

Copy for FACTSHEET FIVE is reduced to 66% of its original
linear dimensions. The first column shows width by height
for ads to be run exactly as submitted, without reduction.
The second column shows width by height for ads to be reduced
along with the rest of the publication. Current advertising
rates are:

Full Page	\$75.00
Half Page	\$40.00
Quarter Page	\$25.00
Eighth Page	\$12.50
Business Card	\$ 7.50

Yes, I've raised some of these prices this time around;
the last time they were increased the circulation was just
over 1000. I've held the line on the smaller ads so that the
people I review can still afford advertising. If I don't get
some business card and eighth-page ads I'll go ahead and raise
those rates too. If anyone finds these rates unreasonable for
reaching 2000 mail fanatics, I'd like to hear from them.

A glossary of unusual terms used in FF is available for
an SASE.

Factsheet Five

Welcome to another issue of the zine of crosscurrents and cross-pollination. Available by mail or in person from Mike Gunderloy, 6 Arizona Ave., Rensselaer, NY 12144-4502; phone (518)-479-3086 (no calls after 10PM EST); 300 baud phone (518)-479-3879 (call anytime). This is Pretzel Press publication #704, and is intended for direct Bulk Mailing to subscribers and good people across the country, around the world, and right into your face. Press run: 2000 copies. 22nd issue, May 1987.

This is where I explain the mailing code, on the far right of the first line of the address label.

A number indicates the last issue that you'll be getting. So if the number is "21", you need to Do Something if you want to keep getting FF. If the number is "21" and you don't even know why you got this, you probably have a Secret Admirer or something. Wanna subscribe?

"+" indicates that you've got nothing to worry about, because you're on the staph, you won a contest, or you just got lucky.

"A" means that you're getting this because of your artwork; either you sent me some or I want you to send me some, or both.

"B" means I'm trading for a book you sent.

"D" means that you're a distributor and so you get one copy for yourself as a freebie. I'm looking for new distributors, people who think they can sell at least ten copies and want to split the proceeds. Distributors get a 40% wholesale discount on all copies, and may sell on consignment. The number after the colon is how many copies I think I'm sending you.

"L" means that you are a Lifetime Subscriber, and therefore exempt from nonsense. Lifetime subscribers get their issues sent First Class. Really, it's a great deal.

"M" means you sent me music to review, or that you promised to send me music in the future. I usually allow 2 issues for a single, 3 for a tape, or 4 for an LP, but I screw up a lot, so let me know if you're owed more. (Or less).

"P" means you're a prisoner. FACTSHEET FIVE is always free to prisoners, but you need to keep in touch to keep getting it, otherwise I'll assume the copies aren't getting through to you. Wardens, you gotta pay like anyone else. Prisoners in mental institutions are extended the same privileges as those in allegedly-saner criminal institutions.

"T" means we're trading zines, all-for-all -- that means that I expect to receive one copy of every issue you publish, however often they come out. If you're infrequent, I expect at least a note every six months to keep you on the mailing list. "T?" means that I'd like you to consider trading with me.

Any of the above followed by a number (like "M/21") indicate the issue you'll have to renegotiate to keep getting FF. YOU MUST GET IN TOUCH WITH ME AT LEAST ONCE EVERY TWO ISSUES, REGARDLESS OF THE MAILING CODE, TO CONTINUE GETTING FF! THIS APPLIES TO PRISONERS, ARTISTS, TRADERS, EVERYONE! Send me your zine, drop me a line, do SOMETHING so I know you're still out there. Actually, this doesn't apply to subscribers, only to people getting the zine for free. Clear?

And remember, FF is sent BULK MAIL. Not only does this make it slow (though, I hope, not TOO slow), but it means undeliverable copies go to that Big Post Office In The Sky. So PLEASE get your COAs to me promptly to avoid missing issues.

Subscription rates are on the Staph page, but here they are again: \$2.00 (cash, check, money order or US stamps) per issue for a regular sub. I used to give a discount for payment in stamps but no longer -- the bookkeeping was too much. Those in the US can subscribe for \$2.75 an issue and get FF delivered First Class instead of Bulk Mail. Those overseas can get Airmail delivery for \$5 per issue. Any of these rates are good for up to 4 issues in advance,

protecting you from price rises for a full year. Send money for more than 4 issues and I'll take it as a welcome donation. (Be sure to specify if you're sending money for a 1st class subscription!)

If anyone wants to buy a lifetime subscription (lifetime of the magazine, that is), I'll sell you one for \$50. Or make me a reasonable offer of trade or barter. So far there are five lifetime subscribers -- shouldn't you be the sixth?

Thanks to Donna Young, J.C. Brainbeau, Pressurized Sperm Aerosol, Eric Mayer, Helen Katz, Scott Parker, Steve Arvey, Thaddeus, David Williams, and Larry Oberc for their generous donations towards publishing this issue.

IMPORTANT NOTE: I do NOT accept used postage stamps in payment!

If you want FF sent to a friend, just send me their address and \$2, or \$2.75 if you're in a hurry. FF makes a great Christmas, birthday, or Bar Mitzvah present. I'll mark it as a gift from you unless you specify otherwise.

In lieu of sending stamps, money, fanzines, artwork, books, or music you can get FF by sending me something to review that I haven't seen before, or by bartering dangerous drugs, canned goods, or negotiable securities.

Thanks to Mykel Board, Don Webb, Bag of Water, John Kenneth Crouch (but John, what's the address for MIDNIGHT HOUR?), Bob Black, Freddie Baer, Jack Stevenson, Also Aswell, Scott Parker, Tim Arnold, Uwe Behrendt, Fred Foldvary, Fred Mills, Martin Morse Wooster, Mycall Sunanda, Gary Pig Gold, Glenn Sheldon, Walt Noiseux, Truce Quistarc, A.B. Windon, Peter Outerbridge, John R., J. Cieciel, Hal Speer, Carl Bettis, Paul Bilzi, Luke McGuff, and Joy Hibbert for sending zines for me to review in this issue.

What won't work is sending too little money, non-credible threats, or just begging. Sorry, them's the breaks.



NEWS

What does it take to get you people's attention? Not only new subscribers, but tradezines that should know better by now, are still sending my mail to Medford.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

FACTSHEET FIVE has had a new address for about 9 months now, and a lot of people still haven't noticed. Bulk mailers in particular should get their act together, but the forwarding order is going to expire soon as well. This means that a lot of you publications won't be in the next review section if you don't straighten things out, and we wouldn't want that to happen, would we? So PLEASE update your files to show me at:

Mike Gunderloy
FACTSHEET FIVE
6 Arizona Ave.
Rensselaer, NY 12144-4502

It wouldn't hurt to tell your readers about this. And for heaven's sake, stop running the old ads!

CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

- Lots of people moving around this past quarter. Here's the ones I caught at it:
- * A.C. GAZETTE & Katherine Nichols have moved to 412 Washington Blvd., Oak Park, IL 60302.
- * ANGELTREAD has trod to #73 University Apts., S. 4th St., Charleston, IL 61920.
- * ANVIL can be struck at 8325 7th Ave. S, Birmingham, AL 35206-3410.
- * BABUSHKIN'S DIGEST new address is Box 13 Canyon Lake Rd., Accord, NY 12404.
- * BEEF is currently cooked up at 2215 R Market St. #H308, San Francisco, CA 94114.
- * BRICK PILLOW is now at 20717-C Hwy-99 #204, Lynnwood, WA 98036.
- * CELIMPEK CORPORATION CHRONICLES schlepped over to 1907 1/2 Lake Ave., Knoxville, TN 37916.
- * DAMAGED is now at PO Box 1033, E. Stroudsburg, PA 18301-4333.
- * Lea Day has caught a boat to NavComs Med Box 1026, FPO New York, NY 09524-7000.
- * DISTORTED is now at PO Box 12768, El Cajon, CA 92022.
- * DREAMSHORE dreams at PO Box 1387, Bloomington, IN 47402-1387.
- * EELSKIN COMIX slithers into a new home, PO Box 85457, Seattle, WA 98145-1457.
- * FACE THE MUSIC has relocated to 4049 First St. #125, Livermore, CA 94550.
- * I CAN'T EXPLAIN needs to explain how they ended up at 5265 College Corner Pk. #9, Oxford, OH 45056-1040.
- * THE JOURNAL OF BORDERLAND RESEARCH and LIVING SPHERE are still together but now at PO Box 429, Garberville, CA 95440-0429.
- * Fred Mills, the once (and future?) publisher of U2 USA, is still in the country but newly at PO Box 221132, Charlotte, NC 28222-1132.
- * Mystic Records now records at PO Box 1596, San Marcos, CA 92069-0540.
- * N.A.P. TIME is sleeping at PO Box 484, Groton, MA 01450.
- * THE NEW PRESS has a new address, 87/20 166 St., Jamaica, NY 11432-3634.
- * RHETORIC FARM has herded the animals to PO Box 43171, Tucson, AZ 85733-3171.
- * ROAR-SHACK snuck off to 1701 E. Martin Luther King Jr., Austin, TX 78702-1238.
- * SHAVERTRON and Rich Toronto have been abducted to 325 Couglan St., Vallejo, CA 94590-3722. Rumor has it that he has ceased publication, so write before sending money.
- * SHOOT has shot across town to 1565 Washington #9, San Francisco, CA 94109.

- * THE THIRD DEGREE is given at 236 W. 27th St. #600, New York, NY 10001-5906.
- * THREADBARE now praises "Bob" from PO Box 20681, Seattle, WA 98102-1681.
- * THE ULTIMATE LIST ultimately ended up at 6101 Riverview Dr., Vassar, MI 48768-9611.
- * VIAZTLAN has moved to 211 S. Pecos St. #239, San Antonio, TX 78207-4040.
- * VINYL is at 510 1st Ave. N #301, Minneapolis, MN 55403-1609.
- * WHO REALLY CARES wants you to know they're at 4-520 Cambridge St. S, Ottawa, Ont. K1S 4J3, CANADA.
- * THE WRESTLING OBSERVER NEWSLETTER now observes through the slot at PO Box 1228, Campbell, CA 95009-1228.

Remember, since it costs me 30 cents just to get your COA if the Post Office tells me, and remailing your FF would cost me the price of another copy plus first class postage (they don't return whole issues, just covers), I'm not inclined to send you a replacement when this happens. If you want to keep your collection current, send me your Change of Address as soon as you know it!

LOST ADDRESSES:

Anyone got a current address for these?

- * Richard A (no, POB 20722 is closed)
- * ASSEMBLY REQUIRED
- * Chris Beneke, who sent me \$2 for a sample copy and forgot to include an address.
- * MODERN TIMES
- * Terry Zerla, whose subscription runs through #23 but moved with no forwarding order.

OTHER NEWS:

- * Ferret sent me a copy of his PHOENIX RISING T-shirt. Alas, we don't get enough of this sort of thing in to do a T-shirt column, but let me tell you, this one is beautiful. The Phoenix is a Sushi Carryout place, and this shirt graphically illustrates the dangers of buying food that isn't dead yet. The production work is beautiful, with about a square foot of fluorescent greens, oranges and reds atop a jet black shirt. Available for \$14 from Mark Ziesing Books (PO Box 806, Willimantic, CT 06226) or Howski Studios (PO Box L804, Langhorne, PA 19047). Get yours TODAY!
- * Chris Reed, publisher of BACK BRAIN RECLUSE (which was in the Publisher's Choice section of FF21) writes to say that he has been having problems with his American distributor, the Strange Company. So he'd like to hear from anyone who has had dealings, positive or negative, with Strange. In addition, you can now order BBR direct from Chris, the publisher, for \$2 CASH ONLY: Netherlands, Dyers Field, Smallfield, Horley, Surrey, RH6 9NJ, ENGLAND is his address.
- * THE IDEALOG has stopped publishing, but a similar journal, POSSIBILITY POST (reviewed below), has replaced it.
- * I want to thank Peter Werbe for plugging FACTSHEET FIVE on WRIF 101-FM in Detroit. It's done me some good, and you ought to tune in on Peter Sunday nights when you're in Motor City. Now, if he would only mention the price I'd be happy...
- * Carl Howard informs me that a new issue of ARTITUDE/the audiophile magazine is in production right now. Back issues have taken a critical look at some of the stranger, more thoughtful parts of new music. 50 cents per copy from 209-25 18 Ave., Bayside, NY 11360.
- * ALTERNATOR, "a new magazine of modern writing and artwork that is distributed within album releases of the independent MOTIV COMMUNICATIONS record label", is looking for submissions of art or writing. 1012 8th, New Orleans, LA 70115 for more details.
- * NOT SAFE, the National Organization Taunting Safety And Fairness Everywhere, is still getting its name in the news by proposing massive overregulation of everything under the sun. You can probably get a sample of their sarcasm by sending an SASE to them at PO Box 5743, Montecito, CA 93108.
- * The Association for Ontological Anarchy, in cooperation with magician Yael Dragwyla, have announced a convention for all SubGenii, Mutants, Zinesters and the like, to be held on the astral plane some time this summer. If you want to attend, write the AOA at PO Box 568, Brooklyn, NY 11211.
- * FLOATING WORLD (742 N. Cherokee, Hollywood, CA 90038) is a distributor of various hard to find records and fanzines from around the world. They've just put out a new "Media Wave" catalog, which you can probably get for an SASE.
- * FREDDIE BAER (c/o Mystopia, PO Box 410151, San Francisco, CA 94141-0151) has got a couple of silk-screened posters

available for the cost of postage, say about 56 cents. One is captioned "This is Religion" and features a procession of gentlemen with death's-heads wearing ecclesiastical dress; the other might be seen as an allegory on the image of Nature, if one were so inclined. My copies are going up on a wall instead of into a file folder; this seldom happens with things FF gets in the mail.

* THE HIMALAYAN INSTITUTE (RRI, Box 400, Honesdale, PA 18431) is having its 12th International Congress on June 18-21 this year. The theme is "Humanity's Next Step: The Union of Science and Spirituality" and one-day registrations start at \$30.

* ALTERNATIVE GALLERY (PO Box 20037, Athens GR-11810, GREECE) writes "we will send FREE issues of the (now defunct) mail art mag EINAI AYPHO to anyone who will send just some money to cover postage."

* JEREMIAH has ceased publication. Too bad.

* For \$2 AFTERTASTE (10 Round Hill Rd., Lexington, MA 02173) will sell you a high-quality vinyl bumpersticker that boldly proclaims "GIVE AIDS TO THE CONTRAS".

* Want to take over a growing zine? APA-EROS, the unedited reader-written forum on sex, erotica, and relationships, seeks a new Clerk before 1988. The Clerk's duties include photocopying everyone's submissions (reducing them to half size), mailing them, and filling orders for sample copies. If you're interested, write Sylvia (the current Clerk), c/o Correspan, PO Box 759, Veneta, OR 97487. State over 18 & send SASE for sample copy.

* CRAWL OR DIE! (PO Box 981, Rockville, MD 20851) is offering a FREE printing and distribution deal to anyone who has an unpublished minicomic ready to go. Drop 'em a line for more details.

* The New England Committees of Correspondence (PO Box 703, White River Junction, VT 05001) sent me a notice of "Building the Green Movement: A National Conference for a New Politics", to be held July 2-7 this year. Registration is \$150, including room & food. Write for more info.

* FREE Market (\$2 from 1001 Connecticut Ave. NW #638, Washington, DC 20036): Not what you're expecting -- this is essentially the toy catalog of the Fund for Renewable Energy & the Environment. They want to sell you solar-powered golf carts, portable solar cell arrays for your portable TV, a radon tester, solar cookers, hot water heaters powered by your wood stove, and lots more. A slick production.

* Syracuse Cultural Workers (PO Box 63675, Syracuse, NY 13217) sent along their Fall catalog. They sell all sorts of socially-conscious posters, cards, calendars and books.

* If you write to the Pat Robertson for President Draft Committee (PO Box 17488, Washington, DC 20041) and pledge your support, they'll send you support petitions, bumper stickers and literature for free. What you do with it is your business, not mine.

* Zen Master Rama (1015 Gayley Ave. #1116, Los Angeles, CA 90024) runs various seminars, with prices starting at \$20 and going up from there. Do you trust a zen master who puts "TM" after his seminar name?

* Yurus writes to say "PARADOX is no longer an 'art 'n shit' zine and the next ish won't be out 'till May/June." Now you know as much about it as I do.

* The National Coalition Against Censorship (132 W. 43rd St., New York, NY 10036) is an umbrella organization of folks determined to stop the drives to prevent us from reading what we damned well please. They're basically an educational and networking group rather than a direct-action one. Tax-deductible, if any of you readers pay taxes.

* FLOATING UNIVERSITY has "capsized" and is no longer being published.

* Floating World (742 N. Cherokee, Hollywood, CA 90038), on the other hand, has just put out its 63rd MEDIA WAVE catalog of fanzines, records and tapes from all over the world. Send an SASE for a copy.

* On the same note, SEE HEAR now has a mail order catalog out (\$1 to 59 E. 7th St., New York, NY 10003 will get you on the mailing list). SH is a great store -- I say that because they sell more copies of FACTSHEET FIVE than anyone else, thereby helping to keep my price within reason (or at least close to it). Check 'em out. Zillions of comix, fanzines, videos and tapes for sale at good prices.

* And yet another distributor of FF, Extinct Productions (2301 Prairie, Aurora, IL 60506-5235) has a new catalog out, in fact a couple of them if you count the updates. Send 50 cents to get on the mailing list and see Adam's good prices for various fanzines.

* Jeff Martin (1743 Ridgecrest Ct., Atlanta, GA 30307) sells minicomics. The catalog is real spiffy, and of course one folded piece of paper long. Send a stamp and you'll probably get a copy.

* Eleazar Campos Aranda (El Tunante 204, Urb. Palermo, Trujillo, PERU) sent me a flyer (in Spanish, alas) for the "Antigua y Tradicional Orden Mistikal Inkaika de Goanakauri", which appears to be some sort of magical working group in Peru.

* The Larry MacDonald Crusade to Stop Financing Communism (PO Box 165540, St. Paul, MN 55165) is a Bircher front that wants us to cut off all trade with the Soviet Union. They're asking supporters to send money, and/or names to add to the mailing list.

* Daniel Adamik (#17442, Box 7000, Carson City, NV 89702) is an anarchist prisoner seeking correspondents who are "violent, remorseless, callous, fearless, coldblooded, antisocial, nefarious, imaginative and open-minded."

* Dan VanArsdale (PO Box 179, Port Hueneme, CA 93041) has a couple of projects going. One is supplying copyright-free art with a human rights theme, and another is putting out broadsides, one each about human rights and fundamentalism. An SASE should get you some response.

* Media Network (121 Fulton St., 5th Fl., New York, NY 10038) publishes catalog guides to alternative audio-visual media. Just out is a 70-title, 40-page guide to Green films, \$6.50.

* AVID (1326 Shotwell, San Francisco, CA 94110) is Artists and Others Against Visa Denials, and they're protesting the new INS regulations designed to keep politically-incorrect music out of this country. If you don't know about this, you should, so send an SASE.

* HALT (1319 F St. NW #300, Washington, DC 20004) is a group that lobbies against ridiculous lawyers' fees and publishes self-help law manuals. Fifteen bucks (tax-deductible) will get you on their mailing list.

* The Zeus Group (PO Box 299, Purcellville, VA 22132) is a volunteer anti-nuclear think tank that intends to produce a free monthly newsletter. Send 'em a postcard with your name on it to get on the mailing list.

* Seidboard World Enterprises (75 Bleeker St., New York, NY 10012) is organizing a world-wide network of people who are willing to put up visitors or swap apartments. SASE for more details, to "THE WORLD FOR FREE" c/o Seidboard.

* The German American Information and Education Association (PO Box 28058, Washington, DC 20038) appears to be a group promoting Germanic interests without demoting those of other minorities. Still, I'm not ready to offer them my support, not when they imply that Germans are better than the masses without specifying who the masses are. But there's no sign of hate literature stuff in their initial mailing.

* A couple of people sent me things denouncing the showing of the miniseries AMERIKA and urging letter campaigns, boycotts and similar actions. With the typical organization of the Left, they did so far too late to get any publicity. Personally, I taped the whole thing, and intend to sit down with a case of beer and watch it in one marathon session some time.

* The IFDMC Centro di Documentazione (c/o Mauro Missana, via Umberto 1°, 146, 33034 Pagagna (Udine), ITALY) is a new "documentation centre" that wants to be sent zines from all over the world for its archives. That makes about half a dozen such centers I know of in Europe. I wonder how many of them are just guys running a scam to get free fanzines?

* Deva (Box MC6, Burkittsville, MD 21718) is a place that makes and sells various comfy cotton clothes. I know a lot of people who think highly of their stuff, so I thought I'd mention them here. "A cottage industry" is their ad boast.

* More from the oddball ads department: Attractant 10, 781 W. Oakland Park Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311 claims to be a "Mystery chemical (Pheromone) to Drive Women Wild!" They urge you to write for more details.

* John Held Jr. (c/o Dallas Public Library, 1515 Young St., Dallas, TX 75201) has successfully infiltrated mail art into his job. He's prepared a catalog/flyer for an exhibition of mail art postage stamps, complete with an essay on the origins and history of mail art, which he is offering Free to FF readers. Just tell him you read about it here.

* The Small Press Alliance (PO Box 471, Cambridge, MA 02142) is an organization of Boston-area zinesters that intends to act as a resource center and hold readings and promotions, though at their current meetings they mostly hang

out and drink beer. If you're going to be in the area, get in touch.

* The Toronto Animal Rights Defense Fund has been established to defend the five folks who have been charged with various moperies and doperies after being caught allegedly spray-painting on a Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet. More information is available from the Animal Liberation Front Support Group, PO Box 915, Stn. F, Toronto, ONT M4Y 2N9, CANADA. Or you can make checks out to their lawyer, Mary Bartley (be sure to note it's for the defense fund on the check) and send them to 11 Prince Arthur Ave., Toronto, ONT M5R 1B2, CANADA.

* Herb Ashe announce an open-ended mail-art project: "(1) Write and ask for your very own Crucifix Fish postcard. (2) Decorate, destroy, detourn, defend, deride, deify, decompose, deliberate and deface, and deliver the result to me. (3) Receive a replacement card and documentation." Herb can be reached at PO Box 2390, Galveston, TX 77553.

* Linda Hutton (PO Box 2377, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814) runs various poetry and fiction contests, some with entry fee, some without. SASE for details.

* PEACENET (3228 Sacramento St., San Francisco, CA 94115-2007) is a new electronic mail and conferencing service and computer bulletin board aimed especially at the socially conscious activist. \$10 sign-up fee and \$10 monthly, or send an SASE for more info.

FACTSHEET FIVE PROJECTS:

* I am finally offering the FACTSHEET FIVE mailing list on self-adhesive labels. This issue's list of over 1400 names is available for \$35. If you prefer, you can get the list on plain paper for \$17. I can also provide specialty lists (all fanzines, all distributors, all music zines, all artists, or whatever else you can come up with) for 5 a name on labels or 3 a name on paper.

* I am also prepared to offer the mailing list or the contents of FF itself (sans art) on IBM-PC compatible DSDD diskettes. The mailing list is one diskette and I'll include the shareware DBMS I use on a second diskette. FF itself also takes up two diskettes. You can get either package of two diskettes for \$12, or all four diskettes for \$20.

* If anyone doesn't want their name given out on mailing labels or diskette, please let me know.

* I am considering offering a special edition of FACTSHEET FIVE with full-size rather than reduced print. If there is anyone interested in this, please get in touch with me so I can work out the details.

* The Gemstone File is a conspiratorial mishmash of theories that have been circulating in samisdat form around the US. I have copies of five different versions (something like 90 pages total) available for \$7.50 total to those interested in this sort of thing -- and I'm looking for more versions if you have any. (See the BOOKS section below for more precise details on this item. Previous buyers who wish a copy of Version S should drop me a line.)

* Martti Koski's MY LIFE DEPENDS ON YOU, an account of RCMP mind control experiments, is available for \$1.

* NOTES OF A NEON GRINGGO, a booklet of writings by the one and only Kerry Thornley, is now available (actually, it's being printed as soon as I get this FF in the mail). This is 24 pages of Kerry's collected columns from past FFs, with collage art by Freddie Baer, who did the cover on the zine you are now holding. Believe me, it looks spiffy. \$3 a copy, and 75% of the profits are going to Kerry.

* The FF ZINE EXCHANGE has been a great success this past quarter. In fact, it's been so great that demand has somewhat outstripped supply, so the first people I want to talk to are ZINE EDITORS: If you're at all interested in having samples of your zine go to people who don't even know you exist, send as many as you want to me to distribute. Then, the rest of you: Send me an SASE with 22 to \$2.00 postage and I'll stuff it with whatever I have laying about (\$2.00 is enough to mail 12 ounces anywhere in the country, so use a decent-sized envelope). You might also take note of Merritt Clifton's (SAMISDAT) standing offer to sell you as many pounds as poetry as you want for a buck a pound. Anyhow, remember, send a SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE to minimize the work I have to do. I mean it. The next person who sends a blank envelope and a check, instead of buying the stamps himself and pasting them on, is going to get something nasty in the mail.

GETTING ZINES

Just a few hints to consider when you're writing away for fanzines:

* If I list a name in the address for a zine, you ought to make checks or money orders out to that name rather than the zine name. If a zine has odd payment requirements, I try to note this in the address section of the listing.

* On a related topic, when I put a question mark after the price it means that I'm guessing because the zine editors didn't list a price.

* On zines with a price under \$1, it really helps to include a few stamps for postage.

* Canadians generally don't mind receiving U.S. funds, but for other countries you should think about alternative payment. Foreign currency is available at larger banks, and IRCs at your post office. Foreign MOs are also available from the post office, but can take forever to get.

* I'd appreciate it if you'd mention FACTSHEET FIVE when ordering zines you saw reviewed here. It helps us all in the long run, as the more credibility I build up the more fine zines I'll be able to bring to your attention.

* If you have any problems with a zine please let me know. I'll be happy to contact publishers in cases of non-receipt. 99% of the time it's just a case of things being lost in the mail.

* If you have time, any zine publisher enjoys hearing comments on the zine he has sent you. This is especially true if you didn't like it; we all like to improve. Even a simple note of thanks can make a publisher's day, though.

* Many zine publishers print small quantities, so you may not be able to get the exact issue that I reviewed. If you MUST have that particular issue, say so, and be prepared to pay extra. Otherwise it's best just to request the most recent or the next issue and save trouble for everyone.

ZINES:

Sometimes people send me ads for zines rather than the zines themselves. Here's the dope:

* THE 9X LIKE IN DREAMS FANZINE is available for 50 cents & a stamp from Rasha Riff-Raff, 3858 Lynn Dr., Orchard Park, NY 14127. I have no idea what they're about.

* COMPLEX LIES (PO Box 726, Needham, MA 02192-0008) doesn't exist yet, but is seeking SubGenial submissions for its first issue. Copy free to contributors.

* CONVERGING PATHS (\$4 from PO Box 63, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572) is a quarterly "magazine with a focus on the traditional ways of Wicca -- its roots, current directions, and future possibilities."

* MODEL-PELTEX (3 Rue des Couples, 67000 Strasbourg, FRANCE) is "an international review of Modern Graphic Arts." In their ad, that includes comics, drawings, and pretty sleazy bondage pics.

* MUSIC OF THE SPHERES (\$12/yr from PO Box 1751, Taos, NM 87571) promises to be "an exciting new quarterly New Age music and art magazine", due out in the second quarter of 1987.

* NOW WHAT is \$2 from Waves Forest, PO Box 768, Monterey, CA 93942. They sent me a reprint of a couple of articles from their premiere issue, one repeating the charges that AIDS is a designer disease created by the U.S. government, and one mentioning a novel ozone therapy for AIDS victims which was new to me.

* PICTURE STORY is \$6.95 from 29 John St. #801, New York, NY 10038. It looks like a new wavish sort of comic collection, 70 pages with 4-color covers.

* RAIN comes from 1135 SE Salmon, Portland, OR 97214, and subtitles itself "Resources for Building Community". They're into the environment, bioregionalism, AT, agriculture, and like that. No price, but the press release says a sample is available for sending a postcard.

* RAINBOW COMMUNICATIONS is published by David Christy, PO Box 42755, Tucson, AZ 85733. I don't have any other details.



Æditorial

I want to start off by apologizing for the lateness of the last issue, and for the condition that far too many of you received it in. I am now back on schedule (unless things get help up somewhere between writing these words and mailing them). This has not been achieved without some penalty; although we're more caught up, there still remain about a dozen books and 50 records held over for next time. But with summer coming I'll have time for the books, and with Shane out of Leavenworth the music backlog should clear up. As for the condition of bulk-mailed copies, I'm trying to do something about it. Hopefully the heavier cover on this issue will help. If not, well, I'll think of something.

I want to clarify the "every six months" policy a bit, since some people still seem to be confused. If you're sending me zines, you don't have to send me letters too -- I can figure out you're still alive. Similarly, if you sent a record and I promised you four issues, you'll get them, whether you stay in touch or not. (I'd rather you stay in touch, of course). It's mainly people who are taking a vacation from publishing and intend to get back to it, or people on the freebie list due to being in jail, who have to worry about writing every couple of issues. OK?

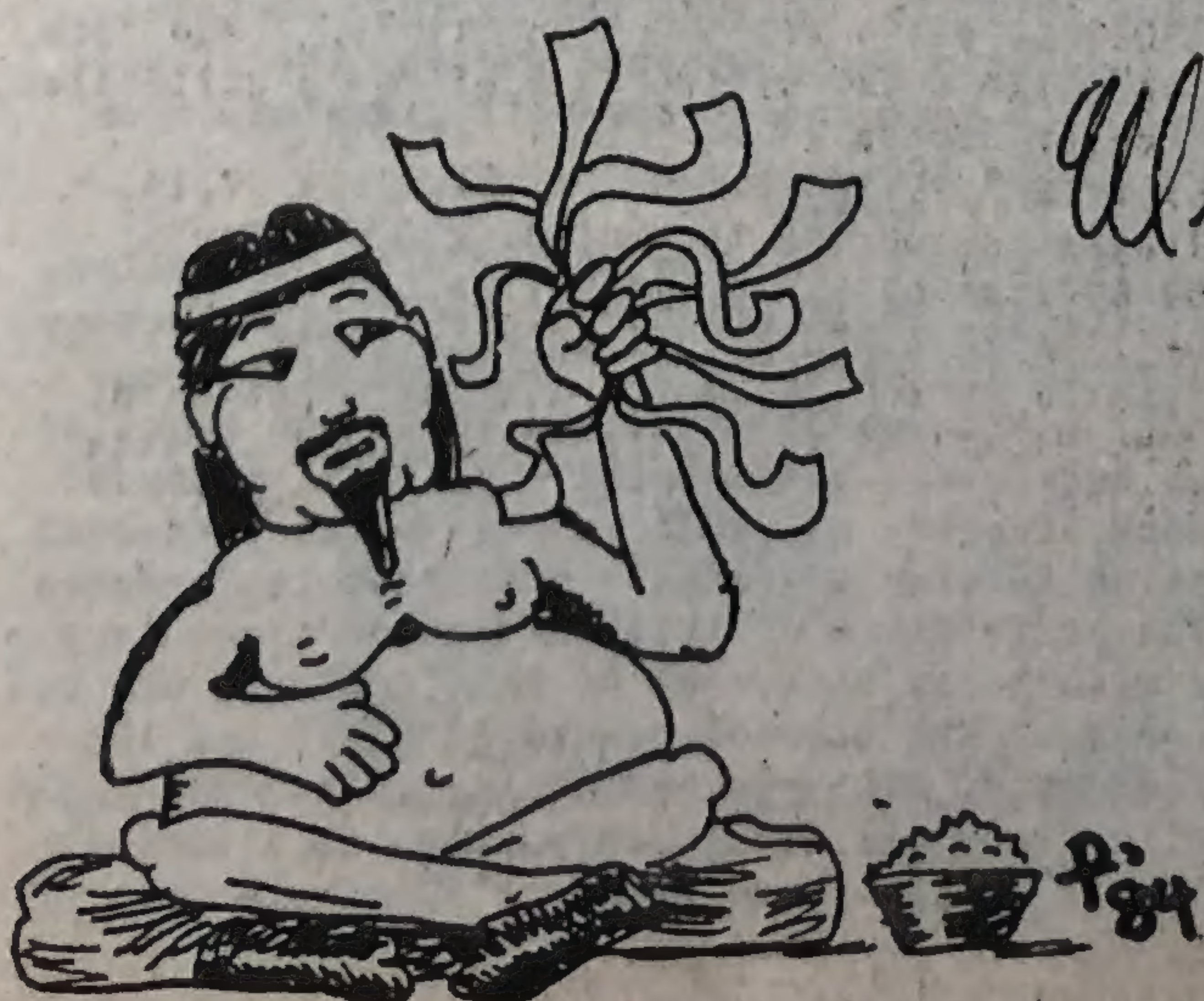
It's also time to mention that I simply am not interested in trading ads at the moment. I don't have the space to print trade ads. I'm not all that convinced that ads in fanzines do much good anyhow -- reviews seems to be where all of my orders come from. Anyhow, those of you running FF ads and expecting me to run yours -- please stop! It won't get your ad in my zine, no matter how appreciative I am of you running mine in yours.

I'm always interested in seeing more zines, and as some of you have noted, you can get your subscription extended by sending things I haven't seen before. But do make an effort to keep them current -- zines from 1982 are interesting, and I put them in my files for posterity, but I won't bother to review them. Zines even a year or two old I need to verify the address on first.

From the old to the new -- you'll see that I'm experimenting with running a BBS on the side, as sort of an electronic adjunct to FF. I'm not sure yet just what will be on it, so I want all of you with modems to call and make suggestions. A minor hardware bug is still in the way, but it should be fixed by the time you get this. If you call and don't get an answer it means that for some reason the computer isn't up -- try again later. Please.

You will notice that I have a couple of guest reviewers this issue: PJ Bellomo talks about poetry market guides, and Bob Grumman reviews some arty stuff. If you have an idea for no more than a single page of reviews, I'd love to hear from you. It should be a field in which you're an expert, and include at least mostly zines which I don't already review.

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone who has helped make the first quarter of 1987 a good one for FF -- by which I mean that I'm just about breaking even. But I'm worried that the income for March was only about half that for January. I could understand that if I were tax-deductible, but I'm not. Anyhow, if you can explain this, or better yet, fix it, I'd be glad to hear from you.



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#6, 9, 12, 14, 19, 21	\$2 each
#5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18	\$3 each
Complete set	\$40

The first four issues are ditto-printed and much smaller than those to follow. The remaining issues are either the original printing (\$2 issues) or xerox copies (\$3 issue), which look the same but cost me substantially more to make. All of the issues from #4 through #18 were in digest format, 8 1/2 by 5 1/2 inches. #17.1 was a 4-page supplement to #17. #19 was full-sized, 52 pages. #20 was 64 pages and the first of the current format, and #21 shot up to 80 pages.

SALE*SALE*SALE*SALE*SALE*SALE*SALE*SALE*SALE*SALE*SALE*

Some of you may have noticed that #20 isn't on the above list. That's because for a limited time (until I say otherwise) you can buy a copy of #20 for only \$1.50 -- less than the cover price! And with a wonderful Freddie Baer cover, it's worth buying a couple just to put them up on your bulletin board. Great wedding gifts too. Buy twelve today.



AWAY FROM THE PULSEBEAT Winter 1987 (\$3 from PO Box M1842, Hoboken, NJ 07030): A music zine that anyone can look up to: beautiful (full-color cover, typeset interiors with nifty photos) and hefty (about 100 pages of fine print). Feature articles cover 8 bands in depth, including Killdozer, Das Damen, Ritual Tension, and Nomads, intercutting bits of interview with background info and speculation. The heart of this zine, though, is "Spiral Scratches", 60+ pages of reviews of new music, all done by editor Art Black. In other words, Art's record review section is bigger and better than my own zine review section, all right? He knows what he's talking about, he has a way with words that would make a chainsaw murderer think twice about attacking, and a lot of his opinions agree with mine (but don't let that unduly prejudice you against him!). There's also live show reviews and a column of other media stuff (books, zines, movies). Included with this issue is a collector's-item single, with The Saqqara Dogs on one side and The Celibate Rifles' multiple-screw-false-endings version of "Merry Xmas Blues" on the other. An amazing production, and one which leaves me awed.

BAYOU LA ROSE #24 (\$5/yr from Survival Network Information Center, PO Box 2576, San Diego, CA 92112): BLR is an anarchist tabloid that Arthur Miller has kept alive over the years with the help of various comrades, despite continuous harassment from the authorities for his various attempts at organizing. This is the anarchy of the underclass -- the SNIC is active in causes like Big Mountain and the continued efforts to win a fair trial for Leonard Peltier. Lots of news about the continuing repression of Native Americans, the destruction of rain forests, international militant unionism, and so on. This is not, as Arthur points out in his autobiographical "Story of the Bayou" article, a paper which "sits idly and reports the news, rather we are part of the news." Constantly broke, constantly harassed, Miller and comrades have so far continued to fight. One caution: due to his volatile life, BLR doesn't stay in the same place for too long. This is the first time I'd heard from BLR in some time, and I last saw them in Kansas City. The moral is not to avoid getting in touch, but to get in touch quickly and so get on the mailing list before BLR moves again.

FOIST #6 (\$5/2 issues from Scott Dohring, PO Box 44, Penfield, NY 14526): Well, let's get the peripheral parts out of the way first: Scott has a selection of experimental and obscure music tapes available for trade, with contents listed in this issue. He also reviews some zines and gives contact addresses for mail artists -- which brings us to the main point. Foist is an "anti-colloquial international art exchange", porinting collages, graphic arts, poetry, texts, manifestos, mail art show announcements, and various other more obscure things. Some of this is quite linear and accessible: Jeffre Kennel's revised "The Bill of Rights, 1986" or Thomas Ward's untitled poem about free speech. Some is a bit more cryptic, like Kennel's "The Abyss on an Abacus", a

near-surrealist work that seems like it should mean something, only I don't know what. And some is too much for my little baby brain, like John Bennett's visual "poems" or Mike Miskowski's typewriter artworks. FOIST is visually arresting, with the pages being bound in a lopsided manner and stickers flying out to attack the unwary reader, full of strange and wonderful graphics. And the contacts sections make it a useful starting point in attempting to navigate through the world of mail art.

LEVEL 10 (\$5 from PO Box 50164, Indianapolis, IN 46256): Ordinarily I wouldn't put something that is probably out of print here, but LEVEL is a fantastic project and you ought to know about it in time for the next issue (July 4th deadline). This is basically a collection of mail art. Inside the huge envelope you find some loose papers, two cassette tapes, and

two more envelopes. The papers give the first hint of the art to come, with stamps, hand drawings, collages and spray-painting. (In fact, before opening the envelope you can admire some stickers on the outside). One tape is "Rocket Roll", put together by Carole Hopper and featuring bands from Huntsville (I'd like to hear more from The Bond and Duophony); the other is the LEVEL compilation, including a dead-on rant by Lon Spiegelman about mail art that would be perfect for my own WHY PUBLISH column if it were on paper, and John Bennett reading some of his own disgusting poems, among other things. Inside the small envelopes are an incredible meloange of mail art items: complete zines, handwritten poems, snapshots, postcards, baggies of unidentifiable substances, stamps, stickers, collages, and who knows what else. For five bucks you can get a copy of the next issue (if there are any left for sale) but if you have an artistic bone in your body, you ought to write and inquire about submitting to it instead.

N D 8 (\$2 from PO Box 4144, Austin, TX 78765): I seem to have liked a bunch of the far reaches art zines this time. The attraction of N D is that they don't just publish the productions of these strange artists (although they do a bit of that as well) but they talk to them and try to find out what makes them tick. Thus even the neophyte can get some idea of avant-garde audio or performance art or mail art by reading N D. Interviews in this issue include ones with F/1, Big City Orchestra, and History of Unheard Music, all mainly audio artists. For performance art there is an interview with John Duncan (quite fascinating) and a report on some performances by Andre Stitt (quite repulsive, or fascinating like something under a rock). Mail Art reportage includes part of the goings on at the recent Decentralized Worldwide Mail Art Congress, at least the part of it that took place in Dallas. A very nice look at the personalities of the various art movements that are not yet recognized (and may never be) by the so-called "legitimate" critics.

NON-STOP BANTER #11 (\$1.50 from Debbie Novak, 16700 S. 94th Ave., Orland Park, IL 60462): NSB is most definitely a pfanzine: they exist to talk about music, new music, good music. But one having established themselves with these roots, they've set out to be different, and by and large they've succeeded. Fanzine reviews? Nope, everyone reviews fanzines. So why not to mail interviews with a few select editors each issue -- which is what they do, this time featuring Jake from UNCLE FESTER and Scott from OPTION. Interviews? Sure thing: the best one in this ish is with Stacey & Laura, the women who run the Rabid Cat record label (a great music source, by the way) Record reviews -- gotta have 'em, but they don't gotta be so one-sided. So the NSB staff try to run most o the records past two or three people, and print all of the conflicting opinions, to give the reader a more in-depth look at the music. Oh sure, they talk to bands too, don't get me wrong; interviews this time include Bad Brains, Christmas, Fetchin' Bones and Rabid Cat. But that's about the closest point of contact with your run-of-the-mill pfanzine. Nice layout and good photos too.

PKDS NEWSLETTER #13 (\$2.50 from PO Box 611, Glen Ellen, CA 95442): The official organ of the Philip K. Dick Society, a group dedicated to appreciating the deceased SF author. Dick's popularity continues to grow, and there are pages of fine-print news here about books being published, records based on his work pressed, plays and operas being performed, critical issues of foreign magazines, scholarly conferences, you name it. The centerpiece of this particular issue is a long interview with Tessa Dick, one of Phil's wives, who was with him when many of the crucial events in VALIS and the related books occurred. PKDS has been doing an excellent job with their publications all along; in particular I want to mention again their double issue #9/10, a 90-minute tape of

Dick alone and being interviewed, which is available from them for \$10. As with Jim Thompson (another current critical darling), it's too bad that Dick didn't get nearly this much attention when he was alive, but it's good to see it happening now.

THE RUBBER FANZINE Vol. II #2 (\$1 & 39 cents postage from Rudi Rubberoid, PO Box 2432, Bellingham, WA 98227-2432): Most of the reviews in this column are pretty long, but this one won't be because I can sum up TRF in one word (well, with a hyphen): rubber-stamps. This is a forum for rubber-stamp art, and a damned good one. Rudi reproduces dozens of such compositions from the stamp pads of the best and the brightest. Lately he's added a letter column and some commentary on the art as well. Let's face it, this is one of the democratic visual arts of the late Twentieth Century; there's still time to jump on the bandwagon before it escapes.

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ZINES

2600 Vol. 4 #3 (\$2 from PO Box 752, Middle Island, NY 11953-0752): A zine for phone phreaks, computer hackers, and kindred spirits. They've improved quite a bit in recent months, and are now carrying a mix of articles designed to appeal to both the novice and the expert. This time they explain how you can use any long distance carrier you want if you live in an equal access area, and talk about Ma Bell's COSMOS computer system. Informative and mostly on the right side of the law.

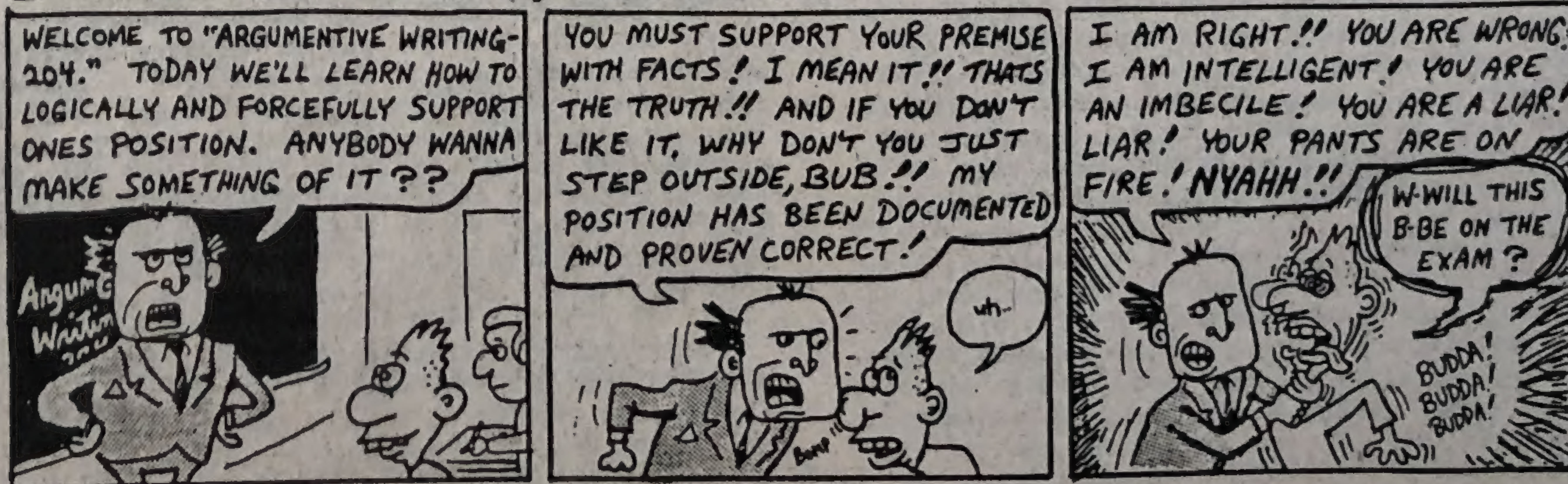
ACCESS TO ENERGY Jan. 1987 (\$1.50 from Petr Beckmann, PO Box 2298, Boulder, CO 80306): Beckmann is unabashedly pro-nuclear and anti-environmentalist, preferring to see decisions made on his version of the scientific facts. In many cases, though, he has a point. For instance, Nader's proposal to the OSHA to reduce the level of radiation a uranium miner could be exposed to would be more restrictive than just living in the average home. These views are relatively unknown in the underground; too often we think that uranium or garbage-burning are bad without looking at the literature.

A.C. GAZETTE #7 (\$1.90 from Katherine Nichols, 412 Washington Blvd., Oak Park, IL 60302): This is the best, but unfortunately also the last, issue of ACG. Katherine has moved on to other things, but there are probably still copies left. There's a lot of reduced print packed into this pfanzine, and it's not all music. Marc Waimon, for example, contributes a short story about loss of virginity and later there's a long and thoughtful piece on good vs. evil and their symbols. On the music side, there are interviews with Club Crack, Savage Republic, and Live Skull. Also shipped with this, if there are any left, is a tape from Club Crack, featuring really excellent gloomy rock. There's a lot more here, movie reviews, VCR opinions, art...and this is your last chance to see it.

THE ACTION LINKAGE NETWORKER #7 (\$1 (?) from Ann Weiser, 5825 Telegraph Ave. #45, Oakland, CA 94609): I've watched AL grow up from afar the past few years, and with a book and a newsletter out, as well as all of the activities within, they've gotten pretty impressive. Basically, AL is a set of task groups and many-to-manys (apas) all working towards positive social change on a large scale. They're involved in all sorts of ambitious plans and the NETWORKER gets across a sense of all the various things going on. Membership starts at \$30 a year (\$20 if you can't afford more); active participation costs a bit more, but gets you the thrill of being one of the designers of the next civilization. It's about time we had a civilization somewhere on this planet.

ACTION TIME! #2 (75 cents from Erik, 15854 Montview, Dumfries, VA 22026): A small pfanzine featuring a sort of schizoid look, part handwritten, part typed, part computerized. Inside are an interview with Electric Love Muffin, live show reports (with a complaint about violence at shows), a Big Mountain update (nice to see that info getting

BerZeRkELy Comix by Ace Backwards ©1986



out into the punk community), and a few pages of reviews. AT's first compilation tape is supposed to be out by now, although I don't have a copy, for \$3. It features Bedlam, Group of Individuals, Dead Silence, False Liberty, and other groups.

ADVENTURE NORTHWEST Mar. 1987 (\$10/yr from Leisure Publications, 2521A Pacific Hwy. E., Tacoma, WA 98424): A tabloid that seems designed to make space for dozens of ads selling cruises, campers and ski lodges, but at least the top half of the pages are taken up by articles. Of course, many of these are the sort of thing you'll find in the travel section of the paper: "There's more to Tumwater than its historic brewery", for example. Nice map and directory of the Washington-Oregon-Idaho region.

ADVENTURES IN LEARNING #15 (\$1 from PO Box 7627, Menlo Park, CA 94026): These folks may be the only ones using computers in education the right way: as toys. They get kids interested in role-playing games, with or without computers, and teach them a bit of programming on the side. AIL is full of ideas for simple programs, thoughts on role-playing, PBM game ideas, and more. Geared towards teachers or elementary-age children.

ADVENTURES IN PATHOLOGY (\$2 from Tom Hosier, c/o BB Rodchenko, 1000 Metropolitan Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11211): Well, this is sort of a comics collection. That is, it is divided into a lot of "stips" all headed "Adventures in Pathology". But the individuals trips are made up of collaged images of the horror and joy of modern life, and captioned with snippets of writing from the fifties, so the plot isn't exactly apparent or anything. Fun stuff, though, and well executed.

ALERT AMERICANS ASSN. (PO Box 3332, Venice, FL 33595): A sort of clearinghouse for Constitutionalist addresses and ideas, these people offer a "Patriotic Directory" with over 5,000 listings. (I haven't seen a copy). For an SASE they'll probably send you details on this and other books for sale.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY TRANSPORTATION Mar. 1987 (\$50/yr from Campbell Publishing, 327 Central Park West, New York, NY 10025-7631): Just what the title says, Max. People have been saying for years that the gasoline engine is on the way out -- AET deals with the new technologies that are on their way in. Whether solar, battery, natural gas, hydrogen or whatever, AET brings you all the news of the industry and an exhaustive list of upcoming events. Did you know the guy behind the Newman Machine was putting together a car?

AMERICAN FORUM #85 (\$3.95/7 issues from PO Box 281, Stn. E, Staten Island, NY 10302): A random selection of news, sex, violence and libertarianism. Articles reprinted here come from the tabloids, THE AMERICAN SUNBEAM, and who knows where else. AF tends to be unclassifiable, and it's anyone's guess whether Gary Pig Gold's column or some cheesecake shot lies around the corner of the next page.

THE AMERICAN PATRIOT Jan. 1987 (\$1 from PO Box 10555, Phoenix, AZ 85064): "Action News for Freedom's Cause". These people are somewhere on the far right: most of this is hysterical screaming about how the Commies are taking over our schools, our churches, our businesses and our government. Their solution to Irangate: declare war on Nicaragua and blast the bastards. Excuse me, I have to go cash my check from the Kremlin now.

THE AMERICAN RATIONALIST Jan.-Feb. 1987 (\$1 from PO Box 994, St. Louis, MO 63188): "The Alternative to Religious Superstition" -- what about other kinds of superstition? They poke fun at various tenets of religion, use Biblical ju-jitsu to attack the Fundamentalists' claims of being saved (Hebrews 6 says you can't be saved if you were a Christian and screwed up), and write stirring articles about freethinkers like Tom Paine. AR also has a batch of pamphlets and books for sale at very reasonable prices.

ANIMATION NEWS Vol. 1 #2 (6 issues/\$9.95 from Expanded Entertainment, PO Box 25547, Los Angeles, CA 90025): Did you know that 1987 is the 50th anniversary of Disney's SNOW WHITE (brace yourselves for a marketing blitz)? You would if you read AN. Unlike some other entries in the field, this zine devotes more space to US than Japanese animation, and although half of the issue is an ad for videotapes which they

also sell, Expanded has put together a nice little tabloid here, with plenty of pictures (alas, all stationery) that will appeal to a select audience.

ANICHTI POLI (Costas Mandilas, Pouloupoulou 45, Thision GR-11851, ATHENS): I don't read Greek, but I can make out enough of this to tell you it's sort of reminiscent of OVERTHROW, the Yippie mag. Laid-back sex, Nikola Tesla, conspiracy theories, and Allen Ginsburg are all present. Costas also put out an underground comic, PLATS!. Some of the comics are funny even without words, and the style is generally Sixties-ish. If anyone out there reads Greek, get in touch with me.

ANOMALOUS THOUGHTS Mar. 1987 (50 cents (?) from COUD-I, PO Box 4, Beaumont, TX 77704): This is the first newsletter from Collectors Of Unusual Data - International, and they seem to have forgotten to put a price on it. This is basically an attempt to start networking between Fortean and others interested in strange and unusual phenomena. Editor Scott Parker is starting a cassette round-robin, xeroxing strange wire service stories, writing to everyone in the field, and otherwise trying to get something going. If Bigfoot, poltergeists or rains of newts are your bag, drop him a line.

ANTIMEDIA #21 (Contribution from Zeno, 819 Haggett GR-10, Seattle, WA 98195-0001): This is a special all-boycott issue of this anarchist zine. Zeno finds both THE BOYCOTT CENSUS and NATIONAL BOYCOTT NEWSLETTER inadequate, so he's done his own listing, arranged by category so as to make it easier to shop from (all beverages to avoid, for example, are in one spot). This is followed by a list of companies and short explanations of each one's crime, and then longer explanations of why, for example, one should boycott defense contractors. An exhaustive project, but I suspect it only scratches the surface of corporate misdoings.

ANT SPOIM #2 (\$1 (?) from Estraven, PO Box 1216, Fairlawn, NJ 07410): That may be too high a price, but Estraven pubs SMASH APATHY too, so I'm sure you'll get your money's worth. This one is pretty much a head-on indictment of the American dream, with the Statue of Liberty holding up a grinning skull on the back. Inside, most of the space is devoted to animal rights stuff, facts on trapping and wolf kills, that sort of thing. Lots of graphics and a bit of poetry.

ANVIL 41 (\$6/yr or The Usual from Charlotte Proctor, 8325 7th Ave. So., Birmingham, AL 35206): The club sfanzine of the B'ham SF Society. This issue consists solely of an extended convention report on last year's World SF Convention in Atlanta. It's well done and amusing, and gives some sense of being there, but somehow it doesn't seem like enough to justify the existence of the zine.

APA-EROS #7 (SASE & state over 18 for sample from Sylvia, c/o Correspan, PO Box 759, Veneta, OR 97487): An apa that has found its audience and is going strong, talking about love, sex, relationships and sundry related topics. There's been a bit of everything so far: serialized stories of friendly sex, short fantasies, accounts of allegedly true rolls in the hay, drawings, clinical talk, poetry, disease-prevention notes, and a lot more. The group is beginning to grow quickly and the comments are flying quite thickly. Imagine an A-E convention...

APA-RENGA #8 (\$5 from PO Box 429, Monte Rio, CA 95462): That's what it costs to open an account; contributors pay only actual costs as they go. This is a sort of round-robin poetry form, loosely based on the Japanese Renga form. I say loosely because these poems are trees rather than linear; with members contributing new verses to whichever ones they please, the poem branches out in multiple directions all at the same time. Very interesting. A-R is running up against the costs of exponential growth right at the moment, and may undergo some mutation, but it will continue to exist whatever happens.

APA-TAROT #16 (Contact Rita Prince Winston, 254 S. Mariposa #10, Los Angeles, CA 90004): An amateur press association devoted to the discussion and study of Tarot cards -- and to the usual apa consequences, namely a lot of shooting the breeze and discussion on topics relevant or irrelevant.

There are serious readers, scholars and smartasses all intermingled here, trying to make sense to one another. A great source for pictures of obscure Tarot decks and new ideas on how to use them.

ARC Sept./Oct. 1986 (\$7.50/yr from Rural Arts Services, PO Box 1547, Mendocino, CA 95460): "The Rural Arts Newsletter". This means two distinct things. On the one hand they print short announcements of interest to rural artists throughout the country: publications seeking stuff, exhibitions, and so on. On the other, they have specific columns dealing with half a dozen Northern California rural counties in some depth, including a lot of more personal news.

ARMAGEDDONQUEST #4 (\$1.50 from Starhead Comix, PO Box 30044, Seattle, WA 98103): The serial novel about the life and times of the Antichrist continues. This section is called "Demons". Ronald Russell Roach has created a panoramic tale of the Beast of the Apocalypse, and since after 170 pages he's only a 9-year-old kid I'm sure there are many chapters yet to come. All sorts of mythic figures, new fantasy and horror ideas, and sex and violence are rolled up in these packages. A series I'm waiting for more of.

ARTPOLICE Vol. 13 #1 (\$2.50 from 3131 First Ave. So., Minneapolis, MN 55408): A small "art" book from this group that apparently exists only to shock. Skulls, naked ladies, disgusting pictures, hate symbols and more are all mixed up in these manic black-and-white pages. This will bore some and offend others -- and a few of you might even like it.

ARTS AND BUSINESS QUARTERLY Vol. 3 #1 (SASE (?) from Prince George's Arts Council, 6600 Kenilworth Ave., Riverdale, MA 20737): This is art on a scale which does not include the other zines I review. The PGAC is one of these groups involved in heavy-duty fundraising and endowments for the artistic establishment, and this is basically a listing of upcoming "events" and grants.

ASTRAL AVENUE #7 (50 cents (?) from Paul Di Filippo, 2 Poplar St., Providence, RI 02906): Now that CHEAP TRUTH is dead, other sfanzines are rushing in to fill the vacuum left by its passing. AA is one of these, and although Paul doesn't bother with Vincent's impeccable graphics, the smartassery and controversy are running at an acceptably high pitch. This issue features a 3-sentence very short story from Don Webb, an asinine Rudy Rucker column, and hot lettercol debate over whether Terry Carr is right that all good SF stories can find a publisher.

AT THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN Vol. 12 #2 (\$25/yr from 2000 S. Fifth St., Minneapolis, MN 55454): A tabloid from this "Professional Women's Theater of Transformation, Celebration, Hope." This is apparently theater as a radical political tool rather than as entertainment; the purpose is to educate both the performers and the audience. They're attempting to change theater from a bastion of the white upper class to an experience for all, whatever race, class, culture or age they happen to be.

ATOMIC COMIX #8 (SASE from PO Box 14822, Gainesville, FL 32604): Strange little comics exuded from the interstices of the punk culture. The drawing isn't really "pro", but some of the ideas work anyhow. My faves are "Three Mile Island Family" and "Pissfing Dog", the former because it always finds another gross joke to make and the latter just because it's such a silly idea for a strip. Also features Skaters From Space, Fast Food Comics, and more.

THE AUREA FLAMMA Apr. 1987 (\$1 from OTB, PO Box 1219, Corpus Christi, TX 78403): An interesting address for an occult group, you must admit. Parts of this read a bit like "Aleister Crowley Meets the National Enquirer"; the account of the brewing battle between the OTO and the AMORC is recounted with something approaching glee. But there are other more serious sections, like the accounts of trying to get the group recognized behind prison walls as legitimately spiritual, and the analysis of some Tarot symbology. On request the Ordo Templi Baphe-Metis will send you information on joining, but you don't have to join just to get the newsletter.

BAD NEWZ #5 (\$1.50 & 2 stamps from Bob Z., c/o Sarris Bookmarketing, 125 E. 23rd St. #300, New York, NY 10010):

This is the zine that invented punkture, the punk equivalent of culture. This issue seems to have more of a mix than previous ones, or maybe I'm the one who's mixed. Anyhow, there are interviews with Fred Frith and Government Issue, a report by Bob on what great fun it is to organize a gig (especially when all the bands are coming down with something), short stories, poetry, and plenty of art. Everything has a freshness to it and a "No bullshit asked or taken" sort of self-acceptance. Whatever they're doing feels right to these people.

THE BALTIMORE MUSIC REVIEW #7 (\$5/6 issues from Mark Reeve [checks to Midtown Children's Center], PO Box 33398, Baltimore, MD 21218): If it makes music in the area, Mark talks about it, whether the noise in question comes from punk label Fountain of Youth or guitar ace Tommy Keene who's just signed with Dolphin. Interviews and reviews mix together in a very pleasing photo-laden layout on nice slick paper.

BAND AGE #2 (\$2 from PO Box 161906, Sacramento, CA 95816): A relatively new zine that aspires to be the ADVERTISING AGE of the indie industry, but so far hasn't pulled away from the pack. Mainly interviews: Agent Orange, Screamin' Sirens, Frightwig, The Risk and plenty more. A fair chunk of record reviews and a few zine reviews round out the package. Plenty of photos, but the printing on them is none too good.

BANG! #15 (\$1 from Rocco Cipollone, 77 Newbern Ave., Medford, MA 02155): Rocco tries to publish band features that are neither interviews nor articles but a mixture of both. Sometimes this degenerates into "Then the band said blah blah..." but most of the time it works pretty well. Featured this issue: Motorhead, Let's Active, Christmas and Celibate Rifles. Also a couple pages of record reviews and great photography.

THE BARD WEEKLY Vol. 6 #2 (SASE (?) from J. Moske, PO Box 805, Annandale, NY 12504): This is a zine from Bard college, not one for Shakespeare fans. It is dedicated to "the free exchange of ideas", and the main idea in this issue is that capitalism is full of contradictions and on its way out, I think. Besides a couple of political articles there are two pages of poetry and a guide to getting started in purchasing classical music.

BASEBALL CARDS Apr. 1987 (\$2.50 from Krause Publications, 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54945): This one is moving from bimonthly to monthly soon, a sure sign that the hobby is still growing. There are hundreds of different types of baseball cards and similar collectibles, and these folks keep the collector abreast of the market, publish checklists and even give away a few reprint cards in most issues, just for fun. Did you know the original Viewmaster "Baseball Stars" packet is worth \$50 or more today? Lots of ads offer cards to buy or sell.

BASIC CHOICES, INC. (1023 Drake St., Madison, WI 53715-1609): These folks act as a resource for adult educators and others who want specialized bibliographies and research papers. Some recent offerings: "Really Creative Conferences" (\$3.50) explores the world of fiction to come up with ideas to make conferences and meetings more exciting. "If Winter Comes..." (\$2) discusses life-affirming prophecies, using the works of Moses, Shelley & Lao Tzu as a springboard. "Survivors of Suicide" (\$2.25) is a resource list for "families and friends". All of these reports come with extensive lists of references, and all are thoroughly researched. Send an SASE and I'm sure John Ohliger, who heads up BC, will send you a catalog of all their stuff.

BAT REPORT (44 cents postage from Lisa Bat, 30-18 43rd St. #7, Long Islnd City, NY 11103): With a lot of her own artwork and a lot of Carrie's, Lisa has put together a visually appealing little pfanzine. No cover date, but from the stuff reviewed it's pretty recent. Besides the art, BR consists of handwritten reviews -- live shows, bands, records, zines -- that come across enthusiastically. Lisa is clearly a person who likes her music & wants to share the best parts with the world. Micro-interview with the Lover Dolls in this issue.

BEAUTIFUL WORLD #7 (\$1 (?) from PO Box 1675, Old Chelsea Stn., New York, NY 10011): A zine for Devo fans. This doesn't mean that they cover exclusively the spud boys, but it does give a substantial clue to their overall outlook. Besides Devo stuff, this issue has Jane Roberts & Seth, Shirley MacLaine, and a panel from a MY FAVORITE MARTIAN comic. Devo-stuff includes a centerfold with flowerpot hats and a bootleg discography. Dedicated and knowledgeable.

BENTWOOD Vol. 1 #1 (\$2.25 from PO Box 021926, Juneau, AK 99802-1926): A new pagan magazine that seems more concerned with harmony with nature than any particular tradition. Short articles discuss making mead, finding or using a natural "power place", drawing on Runes for knowledge, and more. Authors addresses are given for most of the articles, a nice way to make expertise available.

BETTER THAN NOTHING Feb. 1987 (\$1 (?) from 312 S. Coler St., Urbana, IL 61801): Music news from the Urbana-Champaign area. This issue talks about the rise of Weird Summer and the fall of Ack-Ack (both of whom have had records reviewed somewhere in FF), and presents features on The Lucy Show and Judy Gang. The idea is just to help the local scene get more well-known, and it may well be working.

BEWARE #15 & 16 (SASE (?) from PO Box 210208, San Francisco, CA 94121): Two issues of a zine made up almost entirely of photo collages (no clip art here, though there is some verbal explanation on the back of #15). This is a two-issue "Life in the City" special, featuring primarily images of alienation and people trapped in places that are not human scale. More bleak than despairing.

BEYOND AVALON Jan. 1987 (\$2.50 from 93 Jackson Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06606): A zine dedicated to exploring and promoting the far reaches of spirituality in our society. This time there's an extensive article on psychic warfare that stands out, as well as more stuff on Jean Loomis and the Seth Energies, which threaten to take over the magazine. Plenty of references into the psychic literature are given, making this at least somewhat more valuable than a simple presentation of personal prejudices.

BIBLE-SCIENCE NEWSLETTER Feb. 1987 (\$12/yr from 2911 E. 42nd St., Minneapolis, MN 55406): The Bible-Science Association is dedicated to showing that science and the Bible are compatible, but to do this, they have to invent large chunks of the science themselves. Take their article about the age of the earth. They completely misrepresent the argument about the thickness of moon dust as being accepted theory (it went out the window twenty years ago) and say nothing whatsoever about radioactive dating, preferring instead to poke fun at geological uniformitarianism. Unfortunately, they don't understand that either. Pathetic stuff.

BIKINI GIRL Vol. 1 #9 (\$10 from PO Box 319, Stuyvesant Stn., New York, NY 10009-0319): That's the price on the cover. I would have guessed more like two bucks, so maybe you'd better drop them a line and find out what's going on. The contents here are a surreal mix: S.J. Milrod explains how to Dress for Success without looking like every other office gal; David Alexander contributes a strange piece about an elevator ride to hell, and there are clippings from the fifties and sixties scattered throughout, with a good helping of girls in bikinis. If I had to commit myself, I'd say this was poking fun at America's fashion-mania, but I'm just not sure.

BI-MONTHLY #13 (60p. from LBG, BM BI, London WC1N 3XX, ENGLAND): I don't see a U.S. price for this "magazine for bisexuals", so use the general rule for overseas zines: send a nice letter and an IRC and ask. While most of the articles and news here revolve around bisexuality in the UK, many are of general interest and a few short snippets list contacts and so on in this country. Interesting articles include one on the problems of counseling and a review of the book & movie versions of KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN.

BITCH #15 (\$1.75 from San Jose Face, 478 W. Hamilton Ave. #164, Campbell, CA 95008): This tabloid, the "Women's Rock Mag With Bite", continues to turn out high-quality issues. The most innovative article here is on Elizabeth Sabine, a

professional voice teacher who has helped out a great many rock and heavy metal bands. Elayne Wechsler makes a special surprise appearance in this issue to talk about the Madonna-Whore complex, not my idea of a fun article but I suspect attractive to many of my readers. Coverage ranges from sympathetic to, well, bitchy, but is never ever boring.

BLACK MARKET #7 (\$1 from 405 W. Washington St. #212, San Diego, CA 92103): The graphics in this pfanzine/comic combination are probably put together better than those in any other I can think of off hand. Unfortunately the contents are so violent, sexist and disgusting that all the graphics in the world can't make this worth recommending. There is a lot of music coverage that will turn people on: Bad Brains, New Order, Husker Du and more, and if you don't care about packaging, or if you're the teenage boy type, than buy the darned thing already. But folks concerned about sexism or socially redeeming features should go elsewhere.

BLASTING CAPS 4 "BOB" #4 (\$1 (?) from Winged Monkeys Subclench, 381 NE 20 St., Miami, FL 33137): A mishmash of SubGenial drawings, ads, the dregs of popular culture and news, and Baboon Dooley comics, all thrown together without rhyme or reason. This style is probably supposed to be thought-provoking and exciting, but it comes off as muddled and disconnected. Points off for being dumb enough to publish a fanzine chain letter. too. These guys can do better than this.

THE BLOTTER #9 (\$2 from C.F. Kennedy, 233 Woodbine Ave., Toronto, ONT M4L 3P3, CANADA): A zine which constantly mutates, sort of like the common cold virus is supposed to do. This special issue deals with "Small Publications", featuring a host of valuable information from such well-known experts as yours truly. Besides my own babbling there is the winner of the rejection slip contest, some very funny correspondence between a pote and his publisher, some short stories and thoughts on reviewing. Great fun.

BLOW IT OFF #12 (\$1 from Scott Colburn, Gravelvoice Records, PO Box 2271, Bloomington, IN 47402): "The Fanzine from the Cornbelt!!" Cornbelt or not, Scott is all right with me -- what other editors tell their readers to buy FF twice a one issue? Anyhow, most of this issue of BIO is taken up by record reviews, about the same length as the ones that we print in FF but with almost no overlap, and they've the good sense to include ordering info. Also fanzine reviews and some obnoxious letters from the readers.

BLUEPRINT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE Feb. 1987 (Contribution from Loyola IHR, Box 12, Loyola University, New Orleans, LA 70118-6195): A zine that addresses social concerns from a liberal Catholic point of view. This time the issue is homelessness, and Dennis Kalob asks, "If we are in a 'recovery' now, what are the recessions of the future going to be like?" and suggests that we have a responsibility to help the poor, not only because they need it, but because people are an important asset to society. However much I may disagree with some of the politics that crop up in the Blueprint, their concise position papers constantly provoke me to think about tough issues.

THE BLUES (\$15/yr from Arkansas Blues Connection, PO Box 18132, Little Rock, AR 72219-8132): Great, a zine from another musical genre that I know just about nothing of. This one is basically a guide to what's happening locally in the blues, with lists of upcoming gigs and radio shows as well as reviews of past performances. There are some articles that revolve around particular artists as well, giving their stance on blues technique and philosophy. Anyone want to clue me in on what this stuff is all about?

BLUE SUEDE NEWS Vol. 2 #1 (\$1.50 from PO Box 25, Duvall, WA 98109): A pfanzine that ignores all this newfangled noise to concentrate on rhythm & blues, or what some people have called "roots rock". Most of this issue concentrates on performers who hit the local club venues; this sort of thing is big in the Pacific Northwest. Featured performers include Ed Hartman, Stevie & the Blue Flames, and The Ducks.

THE BOB #29 (\$2 from 151 First Ave., #F, New York, NY 10003): Well, there are two pieces of big news about this rock

tabloid. The first is that they're up to a massive 48 pages. And the second is that somewhere inside the pages of this particular issue there's a flexidisc featuring tunes from Mojo Nixon & Skid Roper and Camper Van Beethoven -- very likely to become an impossible-to-find collector's item in the distant future. Get it now and finance your kid's education on Mars. Other bands coming in for major coverage include Dream Syndicate and Billy Bragg. Fred Mills continues the Australia roundup, there are tons of record reviews, and even some random bits, like the story of the writing of "Wild Thing". Vibrant and wonderful.

BOLD PRINT (50 cents (?) from Kyle Hogg, 2008 Stuart Ave., Basement, Richmond, VA 23220): A sort of new wave literary zine, only it isn't really new wave or literary. Look, I'm trying to explain, OK? Anyhow, Kyle publishes poems and stories and art from some of the underground's finest (as well as a depressing drug story of his own): Janet Janet, Carl Bettis, Larry Oberc, Yurus, Jake Berry and plenty more. Little snippets of life far, far over the edge float past the reader like dying salmon.

BREAKING CHAINS FOR EMILY (SASE from PO Box 14, Selden, NY 11784-0014): Taking its name from an Emily Dickinson poem, this is sort of a trial balloon for what is planned to be a larger zine. Poetry, collage and rants directed at breaking the chains of war, famine, bigotry and other madnesses that hold people down.

BREAKTHROUGH Vol. XI #1 (\$1.75 from John Brown Book Club, c/o PFOC, PO Box 14422, San Francisco, CA 94114): The political journal of the Prairie Fire Organizing Committee, "a public anti-imperialist organization". This means that they support the struggles of the oppressed everywhere: Palestinians in Israel, Blacks in Chicago, Puerto Ricans in Puerto Rico. They stop just short of endorsing terrorism, while saying that fighting the state is no crime. The big cause in this issue is confronting the KKK in Chicago, and the article is well-written and captures a spirit of resistance that many people thought dead in the 1960s. However, you should know that the FBI considers PFOC to be affiliated with an "underground terrorist group", and I wouldn't be at all surprised if they kept tabs on the mailing list.

BREITENBUSH NEWSLETTER Vol. V #2 (\$4/yr from PO Box 578, Detroit, OR 97342): Three zines in one. The Breitenbush Community is year-round home to a hardcore of folks interested in building a better world, and part of this is a record of their doings and news for their friends, right down to the status of the guinea pigs (unfortunately, a couple of them died). To spread ideas and pay their bills, Breitenbush also hosts quite a few retreats, featuring big-name speakers and subjects such as Channeling, Yoga, and Massage, and so BN serves to announce upcoming events. Finally, their activism extends off their own land and into the bioregion, and they're

heavily involved in a fight to stop clearcut logging of old growth trees in the vicinity. They can use contributions to aid in paying the legal bills, and will send you more info on this for a couple of bucks. It must be nice but exhausting to live in such a community.

BRICK PILLOW #53 (\$2 CASH from 20717-C Hwy-99 #204, Lynwood, WA 98036): BP is both the title of the zine and the pseudonym of the publisher. He's into libertarianism, and debates with his readers about it, or at least with those readers who write -- much of the zine is conducted as a dialog. Brick also reprints selected pieces of news that catch his eye, although he doesn't do too much of that this issue since he was charged with boring people. His own writing is anything but boring, being wide-open philosophical debate in the style of THE CONNECTION, only without the aqua regia.

BROUHAHA #2 (\$1 from PO Box 152, Honolulu, HI 96810): These people have reinvented the apa or the mail-art network or something. Everyone who wants to puts together and prints a couple of pages, and then the editors bind it all together.. What's different here is that a lot of folks want to talk about music or even review shows and records, so part of BROUHAHA is like reading a bunch of one-page pfanazines. Then there are the people who want to offend in word or picture, and who stoop to sex to do it. Finally, there are those who just do cryptic bits of art. I don't know how many copies, but if you write and ask I'll bet you can get involved.

B SIDE #19 (\$4 from PO Box 166, Broadway NSW 2007, AUSTRALIA): I think that includes air mail postage, so it ain't bad for a 50+ page pfanazine. As one would expect, it concentrates mainly on Australian bands, which means there is practically no overlap with US reviews, except for specials in place like THE BOB. A few US bands, such as Christmas, do turn up. Mostly B SIDE is full of interviews, with a few pages of reviews in the tail end. Professional look, nifty photos, and a damned good buy. But it could be dangerous: imagine what it will cost you to get hold of all this imported music.

BUDDHA MOODIST (25 cents & a stamp from Carrie, 833 1/3 N. Formosa, Hollywood, CA 90046): I didn't expect this to continue, but here's a second minicomic in this series scripted by Shane Williams and drawn by Carrie. Buddha is a "Punk Zen Detective" and the story is somewhat oblique, to say the least. Let's just say "ambience" with a snooty accent and leave it at that.

BUF-O Vol. 3 #1 (TRADE ONLY from Klaus D. Haisch, 1729 E. Tabor St., Indianapolis, IN 46203): Klaus uses this to talk about all the media that interest him, which span a fairly wide range: old movies, new and old comics, TV shows and so on. Sometimes things get a bit puerile, as with some of the cartoons which are just an excuse to draw scantily-dressed fantasy women. But when Klaus brings his trivia knowledge to the fore, things get a lot more interesting.

THE BUTT RAG Vol. 1 #1 (\$1 from Peter Margasak, 1927 N. Sheffield Ave., Chicago, IL 60614): These folks open their first issue by announcing an anti-eclectic policy, pledging to ignore a bunch of local bands because "most of 'em suck as in leech". What they're left with is Precious Wax Drippings, Didjits, and 11th Dream Day, not exactly household words across the land. The interviews are as confrontational as the title. For the most part the record reviews are positive, even raves, but the few things the staff didn't like really get slagged. A zine of extremes.

BVI-PACIFICA Vol. II #3 (\$8/yr from Yael Ruth Dragwyla, PO Box 1548, Goleta, CA 93116-1548): This could have been stuffed in the "SubGenius" box, except that Yael has much more widely-ranging interests than that. For one thing, she's pubbing somewhat controversial materials these days, like a review written by L.A. Rollins of a book about Elie Wiesel. For another, all sorts of Thelemic materials show up. For a third, writers like Hakim Bey and Jake Berry drop in to dazzle and confuse. All in all, this is a far cry from the mildly humorous publications that founded the once-great BVI network. Only the best has survived.

CAAC NEWS Winter 1987 (Donation from PO Box 7454, Olympia, WA 98507): The newsletter of the Central America Action Committee of Thurston County. Of course the big news in this issue is Contragate, but that doesn't overshadow continuing things like the Pledge of Resistance or the attempt to raise money for medical aid in El Salvador. Plenty of CAAC members have been to the region, and their impressions are a key part of the newsletter. Also contains a calendar of local events.

CAMPUS REVIEW Vol. 3 #1 (\$20/yr from PO Box 5155, Coralville, IA 52241): Another of the current wave of conservative student newspapers. This issue features Pat Buchanan on the front cover commending North & Poindexter as heroes. Inside, it's about what one might expect, with the dismal rights records of folks like the Soviet Union and the African National Congress being trotted out for inspection. They do talk about things that the left would rather ignore; conversely, being just as sure about their own position, they ignore some things that the left talks openly about, like the homeless and poor in this country. One has to read at least one of these papers to even begin to get all of the news.

CAN WE NEWSLETTER #25 (\$1 (?) from PO Box 2152, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814): The little tabloid of the Citizens Against Nuclear Weapons and Extermination. Since it came out early in the year, this issue concentrates on the issue of blockading nuke tests in Nevada, but there's also stuff on food irradiation, the O-Rings in reactors, and Star Wars. Much of this stuff seems to simply be saying "Nukes Bad, Nukes Bad" but it does provide a hook into the anti-nuke grassroots and

presents other contact addresses.

CARDBOARD LOVE (50 cents from Blatant Image, 65 Ingraham St., Bristol, CT 06010): A minicomic presenting the story of a blonde and her hairdresser. This is a pretty shallow piece, but the drawing is interesting, with some original views of the world. Too bad the story isn't worth the effort.

CARIBBEAN NEWSLETTER Vol. 7 #2-3 (\$1 from Friends For Jamaica, PO Box 20392, Cathedral Finance Stn., New York, NY 10025): A roundup of events throughout the region, concentrating on politically volatile areas like Guyana, Jamaica, and Grenada. They also present a digest of news from countries that most US citizens wouldn't even recognize, places like Suriname and Barbados. FFJ is fighting an uphill battle to get Americans interested in Caribbean civil rights, but they continue to fight nonetheless.

GELIMPEK CORPORATION CHRONICLES (\$1 (?) from Clifford Lee, 1907 1/2 Lake Ave., Knoxville, TN 37916): Just to confuse things, this particular issue is called WHARF. Whatever the name, it is a SubGenial compendium of mail art, poetry and bizarreness. Crazy musician Adam Eisenstat contributes a few poems, the editor creates collages of "Bob" and his ilk, there are instructions (suitably cryptic) for a SubGenius ritual, and so on. Cliff has discovered the "Bad Life" and is either trying to proselytize for it or to warn others of its debilitating effect.

CELTIC FRINGE #5 (Complimentary sample from 6146 W. Giddings St., Chicago, IL 60630): A bimonthly zine that tries to cover whatever news of interest comes out of the Celtic areas surrounding Britain: Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Cornwall, Brittany and the Isle of Man. This time the lead article is a long interview with Gaelic playwright Norman Malcolm MacDonald. There's also a digest page of political news and notes on current literature and music of interest.

CHRIS LEDOUX INTERNATIONAL FAN CLUB NEWSLETTER Vol. IX #2 (\$1 (?) from PO Box 253, Sumner, IA 50674): Chris won the world bareback bronco riding championship in 1976 and is now called "The Singing Cowboy." I guess if you've heard and liked his music that's all you need to know. Nice-looking little newsletter with the usual fan club contents: upcoming events, mentions in the media, personal news, notes on fan club members, and nice photos of Chris with his horse or his guitar.

THE CHRIST IS NOW HERE (Donation from Tara Center, PO Box 6001, N. Hollywood, CA 91603): "In July of 1977, Maitreya, the Christ, descended from His ancient retreat in the Himalayas and took up residence in the Asian community of East London". That's one of the major claims of this advertising brochure for the works of Benjamin Creme, an elderly Scots artist who has been receiving Maitreya's messages by telepathy and is paving the way for His return. It may sound crazy, but how respectable do you suppose John the Baptist looked to folks?

CHRISTIAN FAMILY RENEWAL NEWSLETTER FROM ME TO YOU (Donation from PO Box 73, Clovis, CA 93613): Mindless propaganda from Dr. Murray Norris (doctor of what, I wonder?), who is very concerned that at least 3/4 of our public schools are teaching Satanism, usually in the guise of courses on science fiction or yoga or teaching self-esteem. He spreads all sorts of news about Bad Things like Dungeons & Dragons (100 suicides caused by the game, he says) and the Church of Wicca. A complete bozo.

CIB BULLETIN (Donation from Christian Information Bureau, PO Box 901335, Dallas, TX 75390): A letter telling folks about all of the different heresies that are attacking the Christian church in the guise of helping it today. Everyone from Gary North to A COURSE IN MIRACLES comes in for disapproval. As an alternative they recommend reading the Bible and basing your own thoughts on the Lord's word, which sounds innocuous enough, but they offer to teach you how to interpret it. Still, this encourages a lot more independence than, for example, the Fundamentalists who will be happy to tell you what the correct interpretation is so you don't have to worry about it.

CIRCULAR #5 (50 cents (?) from 1565 Washington #9, San Francisco, CA 94109): This is Carol Schneck's new project, (she used to publish SHOOT while in Michigan). It's a fairly tight little zine of writing and collage. The writing in this issue has the feel of being autobiographical -- at least it uses real first names -- and if so, it's some of the bravest and most powerful stuff I've ever seen in a zine. (It's still powerful even if it's fiction). True-life stories with no fluff.

CIVITAS (Donation from PO Box 26, Swain, NY 14884): A newsletter from an anti-vivisection group. Somewhat novel in their approach is the idea that philosophical arguments are not the way to go about ending animal suffering. Rather, they devote some space to the idea that animal research doesn't do us any good, that the results it produces for medicine are wrong or irrelevant. This is all wrapped up in a package of stories about graft and corruption among medical researchers. I give them points for the scientific arguments, but retract them for the ad hominem.

CLANDESTINE CONFIDENTIAL Feb. 1987 (\$10/yr from Garry L. Dexter, RR4, Box 110, Lake Geneva, WI 53147): This one makes me want to hunt up my shortwave receiver and get it repaired, an urge I haven't had for years. CC covers mainly revolutionary radio, broadcasts beamed at a particular country in the hope of encouraging the oppressed masses to rise up and smite their rulers. Besides the mechanics of time and frequency, Garry discusses the politics involved. In this issue he identifies Radio Calman, a station beamed at Cuba, as most probably supported by the U.S. government. Great stuff.

CLOTHED WITH THE SUN Vol. 6 #3 (\$5 from The Naturists, PO Box 132, Oshkosh, WI 54902): I could think of places I'd rather go nude than Oshkosh, but that's nitpicking. Naturism involves more than just shedding clothes; it's also the development of a new, more trusting attitude towards Nature, since man is, after all, a part of nature. This issue has reports on a batch of meetings and congresses held during the balmy days of last summer (they're late publishing, and I'm late renewing) as well as plenty of ads for places to indulge in "clothes-optional living".

THE COLLECTIVE NETWORKER NEWSLETTER #107 (\$1 from PO Box 912, San Francisco, CA 94101): These folks are interested in networking of all types, but their emphasis is on collective housing which is, I suspect, where a great many other collective projects get their start. This issue has a tentative look at a squat in San Francisco, 20 people taking over an empty house and living in it rent-free. Clearly there are problems in integrating this approach to that of living collectively to pay for a house, but the CNN folks are trying. If you're local you should get this, if only for the Grapevine Calendar of alternative events around the Bay.

COLUMBIANA Spring 1987 (\$1.50 from Chesaw Rte, Box 83-F, Oroville, WA 98844): If they can live up to their high standards, I expect this to be a Publisher's Choice within a few issues. This is a bioregional zine, for folks in the greater Columbia River basin. Articles talk about the land and the people, about the good forces at work to preserve it (like Charles Wellner's "Research Natural Area" program in Idaho) and the bad forces hurting it (like water mining and herbicides and food irradiation). Not hippy-dippy nature love but concerned activism, coupled with a realistic look at what can be done. Incidentally, this is desktop publishing done right -- I was 3/4 of the way through before realizing that large chunks of this had rolled off the laser printer. Keep it up, folks.

THE COMEDY MAGAZINE #1 (90p. & IRC from Mat Coward, PO Box 656, London NW3 6AQ, ENGLAND): I'm not sure I would start interpreting V (Remember V? Y'know, bitchy women that eat mice?) as a sitcom, but then, I'm not exactly the sort to get serious about comedy! as the cover proclaims. Most of the contents here are criticism of one sort or another -- live comedy, comic books, and comedy books all come in for their share of reviewing. Gary Mitchell contributes a how-to guide for the home maker of comedy tapes. Everything covered here is British, and some is incomprehensible to at least this Yank.

COMIC BUYERS GUIDE #700 (Sample on request from Free Sample Department PR, 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990): A weekly tabloid with over 20,000 readers and 140 pages in this special celebratory edition (How many other weeklies have lasted 700 issues?), CBG is bigger than most anything else I review. But somehow comics fandom still seems small and friendly, perhaps because of its association with comics. Anyhow, besides exhaustive numbers of ads from folks looking to buy and sell, CBG publishes every bit of major comics news they can get their hands on, and runs a number of amusing and innovative columns, like Robert Ingersoll's "The Law is an Ass", which discusses legal questions that arise in real-life publishing or in the comics themselves.

COMIC UPDATE #13 (25 cents & a stamp from Andrew Roller, 3223 Donner Way #3K, Sacramento, CA 95817-3259): Andrew is carrying a large chip on his shoulder because SMALL PRESS COMICS EXPLOSION won't review his pornographic work. So, he started his own reviewzine, which will talk about anything published in the comics world, and it's quite well-done, with cover reproductions of most everything listed and, of course, things that SPCE won't touch with a stick featured prominently. Also available: NAUGHTY NAKED DREAMGIRLS #2 (25 cents & stamp & age statement), which is a text mini, featuring sorority bondage. Ho-hum.

COMMUNIST BULLETIN #11 (50 p. from Box CBG, Boomtown Books, 167 King St., Aberdeen, UK): To sum up in one word: tedious. When they're not engaged in factional squabbling with other sub-groupings of communists, they're assuring us that capitalism is decadent, bankrupt, and on its way out any day now -- just as it has been for the past century. Their attempt to portray labor troubles as a good sign strikes me as looking for a parade to get in front of to demonstrate one's leadership.

THE COMMUNITY DIALOGUE #67 (Sample FREE or \$5/yr from Brad Ott, 916 Euterpe, New Orleans, LA 70130): A new name for an evolving zine, which used to be simply DIALOGUE. Brad applies global concerns to Nola politics and other local concerns in an up-front way. Published during Carnival, this issue gives some tips to staying sane through Mardi Gras and discusses the harassment of street performers in the Old Quarter. Other articles are reaching out to more regional issues, like the drive at U of Florida to gut the radical Philosophy Department. And the community calendar is still going strong.

CONFLICT 44 (\$1.50 from 62 Ave. C #3, New York, NY 10009): Gerard is reveling in his unpopularity, printing over 3 pages of letters in this issue so as to be able to respond snidely to them. Nice interviews this time with White Zombie and Das Damen, full of snide comments but not much music. And of course Gerard continues his policy of giving nasty reviews to lousy music, something not many publishers have the guts to do today. People are either outraged or fascinated (or both) by CONFLICT. I like it, but what do I know?

THE CONNECTION #142 (\$2 from Erwin S. Strauss, 4271 Duke St. #D-10, Alexandria, VA 22304): After a period of relative doldrums, this mainly-libertarian apa has bounced strongly back, with this issue being over 100 reduced-print pages. Discussion topics range all over the map, with philosophy and politics predominating. The insult level doesn't seem to be as high as I remember, but maybe that's just because I'm not personally involved any more. Notable contributors include Fred Foldvary, Bob Black, Jim Stumm, and Mike Hoy.

CONSERVATIVE DIGEST Feb. 1987 (\$2.50 from PO Box 2246, Fort Collins, CO 80522): This is really to slick to be reviewed, but it's funny enough to deserve a mention. This is what the left is afraid READER'S DIGEST is -- an outright propaganda organ for ultraconservative views. Sample article titles: The AIDS Plague, The Right History, Those Conservative Basics, Dealing With the Iransmeat. Incidentally, Falwell's new Liberty Lobby will give a free six-month sub to anyone who mentions seeing their ad in CD -- write 'em at 717 Second St. NE, Washington, DC 20002.

CONTROVERSY IN REVIEW #15 (\$2 from Richard E. Geis, PO Box 11408, Portland, OR 97211): Geis has killed the long-running SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW in favor of this smaller, more personal format. This is a mix of book reviews (lots of SF, but a few peripheral things like Bob Black's ABOLITION OF WORK or a book

on the dinosaurs dying out) and personal writing, in the form of news commentaries. The commentary tends to be in a cynical libertarian the-government-will-fall-Tuesday-after-lunch vein, but it's by no means farfetched, just pessimistic. And after years of practice, Geis can write pretty convincing pessimism.

COOL ART MAGAZINE WEEKLY 11 (15 cents & a stamp from PO Box 5060, Kent, OH 44240): This isn't really weekly, just frequent though a bit irregular. The title is otherwise correct, this being a zine dealing with art (I'll give them "cool" on general principles). Naturally, the death of Andy Warhol rates an analysis in this issue, and just as naturally, they're not impressed. There's a couple of strange drawings and a nice poem about cockroaches by Catherine Kaikowska, as well as some arty photography and other stuff. Not long, but high-quality.

COSMEP NEWSLETTER (\$45/yr from PO Box 703, San Francisco, CA 94101): With a price like that I doubt that they'll trade, although I could be wrong. COSMEP is the "International Association of Independent Publishers", which seems to be mostly directed at small-books folks, though there is some stuff for the magazine publishers. Most of this is about effective marketing for your products through direct mailing, exhibits, and so on. Another article discusses lucrative publishing opportunities. Notably absent: anything about creativity or writing well. This is not the underground, no matter how small the presses involved may be.

CRASHING WAVES #9 (\$5/6 issues from Chris Rawlins, PO Box 335, Woodside, NY 11377): Would you believe long and thoughtful interviews with both Throwing Muses and Iggy Pop in the same pfnzine? Well, CW is the place, and I don't know how Chris did it, but it makes for a fun read. Scruffy the Cat also has a few words to say and Chris reviews a couple of records and live shows. Not a huge zine but definitely high quality.

CRAWL OR DIE #3 (Send stamps to PO Box 981, Rockville, MD 20851): A zine which has refused to grow huge in order to remain low-priced, a path I sometimes think I should have taken. As a result this is a text mini, crammed full for this special with zine reviews -- not only does he mention some things I don't, but he has the audacity to disagree with my reviews on things we both mention. Send a couple of stamps because there are also a pile of minicomics available for the same price. Check out especially the bizarre Mad Dog Comix.

CULTURAL DEMOCRACY #34 (\$15/yr from Neil Sieling, 3625 Bryant Ave. S #1, Minneapolis, MN 55409): The newsletter of the Alliance for Cultural Democracy, a group which discusses questions of how to make sure one culture does not dominate another. Racism can be seen as a subset of culturism, as can many other social problems. This issue contains the report of their 10th anniversary conference, with lot of people talking about community organizing and supporting nearly-lost cultures. There is also much discussion about formulating a Cultural Bill of Rights, including thoughts on what such a document might be good for. A social action group for artists.

CURSE OF THE BABY MONSTER (95 cents from Starhead Comix, PO Box 30044, Seattle, WA 98103): The second in the "Starhead Presents" series, this one is by FF-favorite R.K. Sloane. This one is the tale of a Lettuce Leaf doll brought to some sort of shambling, repulsive pseudo-life by the experiments of a very young mad scientist. It features quite a number of horror movie cliches and of course Sloane's own warts-and-drips drawing style that threatens to ooze off of the page and mess up your pants. Comes with a color slick cover.

CUT ZINE #1 (\$1 from Steve Erickson, 11 Julian St., Norwich, CT 06360): A new pfnzine that plans to devote at least a part of its energies to promoting (or creating) the Eastern Connecticut scene. In this issue they've managed to score a long interview with Live Nude Girls (great band name) and more modest ones with Neutral Nation and Moving Targets. Not bad for a first issue. There are also a batch of records and one page of fanzines reviewed.

DAILY IMPULSE Vol. 2 #6 (\$5/yr from PO Box 90312, San Diego, CA 92109): A punk anarchist zine, or an anarchist punk

zine, or something like that. Anyhow, these folks are definitely interested in promoting anarchy, but they spend most of their space talking about punk music. The concentration this issue is on live shows and the problems they've been having, and they print a long interview with Dave from MDC who proposes a radical solution: throw the assholes out of the show. Makes sense to me, but some people will claim it's against the punk ethos. DI also prints a nice contact listing, and this issue gives a history of their three years in publishing.

DAMP #1 (\$2 from Kevin Krainick, PO Box 68, S. Willington, CT 06265): A pretty impressive first issue that still has room for improvement (as do we all). On the plus side: A great interview with Kristin from Throwing Muses, and one almost as good with Byron from FORCED EXPOSURE. In the middle: Half a ton of music reviews, with a style that echoes (fill in your favorite snide fanzine editor) and doesn't seem to represent the editor's (incidentally, he goes by "The Bag") real voice. On the down side: jumping every article to another page two or three times, just like the newspapers, for no particular reason.

THE DANGEROUS TIMES (\$2 from RDI, Box 378, Glenmoore, PA 19343): A zine that is hoping to promote the revolution once people realize that drinking Coke is murder. Meanwhile, it prints a lot of bad poetry (although Kenneth Brown's tale of anomie, "Four Phases of a Businessman's Day", is an exception), and a rather good piece on a group which is trying to help out in Guatemala by providing American escorts for outspoken peasants who would otherwise be kidnapped, tortured, and dumped to die. Mail-artish type illustrations.

DEADBEAT #4 (\$3 from 1338 Haight St., San Francisco, CA 94117): A tabloid of down-and-out writing and cartoons dealing with the dregs of society. Somehow I don't think they would put it quite that way -- these are sympathetic portrayals even though the folks in them aren't doing too well at coping with society. They don't seem to be making any particular point, other than perhaps there is a whole culture out there that you won't find in the "serious" literary magazines.

DEAD PEOPLE (SASE (?) from Jorge, 4 Henry St., Lakewood, NJ 08701): A small pzfanzine that is a bit low on content. There's a couple of stupid cartoons, some very short record reviews, one live show review and some horoscopes for people who want to be insulted. No price listed, but I suspect a stamp or two should do it.

DEJA VOODOO TRAIN #9 (50 cents (?) from Og Music, Box 182, Stn. F, Montreal, Que. H3J 1L1, CANADA): The house pzfanzine of Deja Voodoo and their distributors/parent company, Og. As such, it basically reprints articles about this sludgeably band and informs fans as to upcoming records and tours. Og has a batch of records for sale, including some by other artists.

DEMOCRATIC LEFT Jan.-Feb. 1987 (\$1.50 from 15 Dutch St., #500, New York, NY 10273): Publication of the Democratic Socialists of America, a group formed by the merger of the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee and the New American Movement. "Democratic" applies in both the ideological sense and the political party one; they have even got some members of Congress interested in their platform. Their articles range from heavy political analysis ("Democrats in the Twilight Zone") to looks at social issues ("War Toys: Fantasy or Indoctrination?"). Parts of their position are clearly explained in a serious, earnest tone.

DE PROFUNDIS #182 (\$5/yr from LASFS, 11513 Burbank Blvd., N. Hollywood, CA 91601): "The official newsletter of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society", edited these days by Therri Moore. DE PROF is looking good these days, and this issue included the updated DIRECTORY TO LOS ANGELES FANDOM, the largest collection of lunatic's addresses in print. Anyhow, DP is full of what you'd expect from a clubzine: meeting minutes and sundry calendar announcements, as well as a bit of a fan fued being conducted in the letter column.

THE DILLINGER RELIC 51 (\$1 from Arthur D. Hlavaty, 819 W. Markham Ave., Durham, NC 27701): The story of Arthur's life continues, with the usual cast of interesting events and characters. This time, Ram Dass speaks, Robert Anton Wilson stays over, Arthur himself carries his socks about downtown

San Francisco, and Ian Watson talks about torture (well, actually, Arthur recounts an Ian Watson speech on the subject). Colorizing movies, cyberpunk and Hal Clement all come in for Arthur's smartass critical examination. Oh yes, and there are two pages of football junk in the back.

DISASTER #3 (75 cents from Bill Callahan, PO Box 1211, Pasadena, MD 21122): A rude and crude pzfanzine somewhat in the tradition of CONFLICT but not quite so self-consciously obnoxious. (But it may not be for lack of trying). Bill apparently knows what he likes (loud stuff, mainly) and if you don't, well, too bad for you. Overall, I liked this one a lot. The reviews are blunt enough to get the point across, and well-done enough that I learned something about the records I hadn't heard. Plus, he didn't slag a single one of my favorite bands, but that was probably just an oversight. Interview with Phantom Tollbooth in this issue. Labels please note, good reviews available for \$10 and up.

DISCUSSION BULLETIN #22 (\$3/6 issues from PO Box 1564, Grand Rapids, MI 49501): This is sort of the flip side of THE CONNECTION, though I doubt the groups even know about one another. DB is an apa for "third force" socialists, those ideologically descended by one stream or another from the thoughts of Daniel DeLeon, who was big in the early part of the century. Everyone calls the other folks "comrade" even when they're condemning their stupid ideas. The usefulness of voting, the stage of capitalism and the possibility for coalition between various splinter socialist parties are all topics of hot discussion here. Revolutionary, but a different stripe of revolutionary than most anyone else.

THE DIXIE VOICE Jan.-Feb. 1987 (\$1 from Melissa Manuel, Route 2 Box 121-A, Germanton, NC 27019): After only 3 issues, this "Southern Alternative" pzfanzine has gotten pretty impressive. This is the "1986 in Review" issue, with articles and interviews and retrospectives arranged along a time line, and it works well. Everything is intermixed rather than set apart in boring old columns. Some notable features: Interviews with the Georgia Satellites and Bob Guccione, Jr.; Winter Hours live review; and reports on a couple of local charity concerts. Nice work, folks.

DOWN BY THE BOARDWALK #1 (\$1 from White Knight Productions, PO Box 656, Wautoma, WI 54982): A new zine that hopes to act as an exchange for record collectors. They're printing want lists in the order received, as well as (in this premiere issue) a history of the Times Square Record Shop. Most of the stuff people are hunting for so far seems to be from the early days of recording, or at least no later than the Sixties.

DRAFT NOTICES March-April 1987 (\$5 or more/yr from COMD, PO Box 15195, San Diego, CA 92115): The newsletter of the Committee Opposed to Militarism and the Draft, who work in all sorts of classical networking ways: ads in high school papers, leafletting, publishing articles from other sources, war tax resistance, and so on. They concentrate on catching youth before they've been brainwashed, but they're also alert for threats to their own activism: this issue casts a jaundiced eye on the prospect of grassroots activists getting caught up in Gary Hart's next campaign. Militarism issues run far and wide: from a comprehensive test ban treaty to Finnish CO's in this issue.

THE DROOD REVIEW OF MYSTERY, March 1987 (\$1 from PO Box 8872, Boston, MA 02114): Hey, DROOD is out on schedule at last! And the looks have been upgraded again and a little bird tells me that Shane Williams might be joining me on the reviewing staff. What more can you ask from a mystery fanzine? Well, how about a nice long review of Tapply and Healy's work in the context of the ground that Parker broke? Or a Spring preview list of 340 forthcoming titles? Great stuff, all of it, even the parts that I wrote myself. A must for the mystery reader who wants intelligent opinions about his favorite genre.

THE DUCKBERG TIMES #33 (\$1 from PO Box 382, Alexandria, VA 22313): A biweekly rock tabloid that covers the nation's capital and surrounding areas. Professional-looking but still with a bit of that friendly amateur feel left, perhaps thanks to the array of cartoons inside. The Neighborhoods and the

March Violets get the front-page nod this time. Coverage of the local club scene is extensive, as is the gossip column.

THE DUPLEX PLANET 82 (\$1.25 from David Greenberger, PO Box 1230, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866): David does something unusual: he talks to old people. Then he writes down what they said and publishes it. Now, retired folks aren't infallible, but in the best parts of this, they look at the world sideways from the rest of us, and just reading their words can set the brain cells to running: "If you're too easy with the people they'll climb all over you like mosquitos", says Viljo Lehto. On the other hand, sometimes the discussion turns dull or boring, but not for long. Also includes poetry from David's older friends.

EARSHOT Vol. 3 #1/2 (\$15/yr from PO Box 95851, Seattle, WA 98145-2858): A non-profit all-jazz music zine. Now that they've been publishing for a couple of years, they're trying to find funding and help to sponsor a concert series. Plenty of musicians, records and gossip about jazz here -- I'm in no position to judge on the correctness of it all, but it's well-written. One thing I don't understand: Why doesn't FF get any indie jazz records to review? Is it our breath?

EARTH CHILDREN Vol. 3 #4 (Donation [\$5/yr suggested] from PS 226K, 6006-23rd Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11204): A non-profit, donor-supported four-page quarterly that is primarily written by children all over the world, and illustrated by them as well. The basic theme? Peace. Don't expect a lot of argument of reason here, just a continued call to the adults to stop killing each other.

EDMUND SCIENTIFIC 1987 CATALOG (\$3 from 101 E. Gloucester Pike, Barrington, NJ 08007): Things have changed since I was a kid. This catalog is a lot slicker (and more expensive) than it used to be, and the mix of stuff has been yuppified a bit. Like, when did they start selling jockstraps? Or bicycle seat cushions? Oh, sure, the radiometers and the bobbing birds and the optical fibers are still here, but even they look different in color. Nostalgic but...different, like falling into a parallel universe.

EELSKIN COMIX ANNUAL (\$1 from PO Box 85457, Seattle, WA 98145-1457): A collection of the best from the first two issues of EELSKIN. These are for the most part single-panel jobs or short strips; only one runs more than a page. Styles vary, with the best being 1 or 2-panel strips with the sort of bizarre humor that is popular in half a dozen pro strips these days. Lots of funny stuff with only a few clunkers.

EIDOS Vol. 3 #1 (\$3 from PO Box 96, Boston, MA 02137): "Erotic Entertainment for Women" is the cover blurb, and sure enough, inside there are beefcake photos and fiction written from a female point of view. But EIDOS is no separatist zine, or even a place for women to relax and enjoy themselves alone, as they also feature photos of women in helpless positions and a wide-open ad section that includes phone sex services and personals of all stripes. Hovering around the border between class and trash.

ENDLESS PARTY #4 (50 cents from 1765 N. Highland Ave., Box 703, Hollywood, CA 90078): A pfanzine tabloid that seems very fashionable somehow. Interviews with Rubella Ballet and Arthur Kane (ex-NY Dolls) seem to be the centerpiece, but the other stuff is a strange mix: A page of Suzi Quatro photos, a Butthole Surfers LP review and an Alice Cooper live show review, and a page of club scene photos. I think this one could use a little focus.

ENTREPRENEUR MAGAZINE Vol. 15 (\$17.97/yr from 2311 Pontius Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90064-1894): "250 New Ways to Make Money in 1987", and they'll be glad to send you a how-to manual on any of them for only forty bucks or so. Start your own ad agency, make personalized license-plate frames, run a liquor store or a herb farm -- and try not to think about how rich the magazine publishers are getting.

EQUAL TIME #124 (\$30/yr from Star of the North Publishing, 711 W. Lake St. #504, Minneapolis, MN 55408): A gay biweekly tabloid that concentrates on news and politics rather than arts and culture as do some other similar papers. As such, the atmosphere of AIDS news is overwhelming at times, with at least one front-page story in every issue I've seen. There is other stuff here, particularly a good section of national news summaries and a look at the policies of the local Catholic churches in the wake of the Pope's latest pronouncements on homosexuality.

EVANGELISTS

For one reason or another, I seem to have been inundated with evangelical literature, mostly from TV preachers, in the past quarter. Recognizing that some readers do enjoy investigating this stuff, but also that I get bored by too much of it, I'm going to give a real quick rundown on it here. You want to know more, write and plead to be put on the mailing lists -- if I don't list a price, any donation is supposed to be enough.

I do want to make it clear that however little I think of these particular ministries, I deeply respect your right to worship as you please. Feel free to make all the smartass remarks about Our Lady Eris you wish in return.

ABUNDANT LIFE (\$1/yr from Oral Roberts Evangelistic Association, 7777 S. Lewis, Tulsa, OK 74102): Would you give this man eight million dollars? Thick with appeals to guilt and promises of miraculous faith healing.

BILLY JAMES HARGIS CHRISTIAN CRUSADE NEWSPAPER (PO Box 977, Tulsa, OK 74102): Concentrates on the degeneration of American society: AIDS, pornography, depression, divorce, public schools and people who criticize Reagan all come in for condemnation.

THE EVANGELIST (Jimmy Swaggart Radio & TV Ministry, Baton Rouge, LA 70821): Cast them evil spirits out, let Jesus into your heart, sing a song for the Lord, and send money while you're at it.

THE FOUNDATION COMMENTATOR (FBR, PO Box 499, Pasadena, CA 91102): The Foundation for Biblical Research wants everyone to come to their own personal faith, but only after reading the "facts" as the FBR interprets them. So if you don't decide to turn to Christ, you're WRONG.

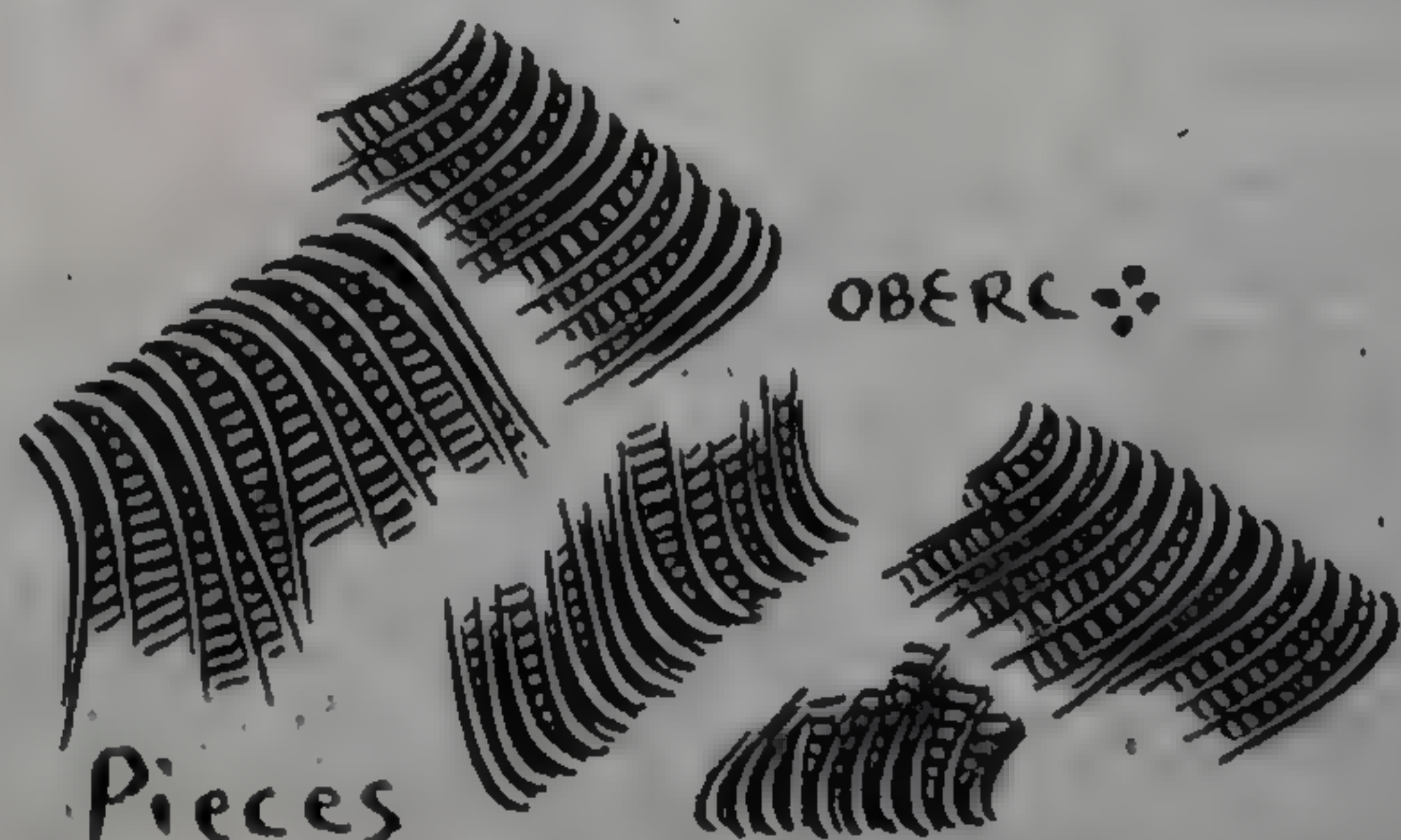
GENEVA REVIEW (PO Box 131300, Tyler, TX 75713): A more laid-back approach to "Christian Reconstruction", giving Bible lessons and commentary to lead the believer down the straight and narrow path. Presbyterian in origin, they may not even belong in this box.

NEWS & VIEWS (PO Box 8977, Chattanooga, TN 37411): From John Ankenberg. The New Age is bad, doing meditation wrong can give your soul to Pagan deities, but it's all right, God is coming and he'll straighten you out.

NEW WINE (Christian Growth Ministries, PO Box 2, Mobile, AL 36616): Trust the Lord and everything will be all right, even though you'll walk around looking up at the ceiling and grinning like an idiot.

POWER (Schambach Miracle Revivals, 1405 Woodside Ave., Ellwood City, PA 16117): Praise the Lord and shout no matter where you are, and by the way, I'm behind on the radio bills -- wanna buy a cassette?

THE WORD OF FAITH (PO Box 50126, Tulsa, OK 74150): From Kenneth Hagin Ministries. Screw theology, all you need is Jesus. Come to a campmeeting and be saved. Bring your wallet.



OBERC:

Pieces
of her hair cut
were everywhere, you
could tell from what
was left of her she had
messed with the wrong
people...



ERC NEWSLETTER Feb. 1987 (\$5/yr from PO Box 460, Floyd, VA 24091): Put out by the Educational Resource Cooperative, which appears to be part of a whole network of local activists. "Educational" is pretty broadly interpreted; home schooling is part of it, as is adult education, as is peacework (educating the politicians, I suppose). Their calendar shows Karate classes, a prenatal group, New Moon gathering, festivals, and more. Why don't all towns have something like this? If they could teach others to get started the ERC would really have something spectacular going.

FANZINE PANATIQUE #65 (Trade or IRC from Keith & Rosemary Walker, 6 Vine St., Greaves, Lancaster, LA1 4UF, ENGLAND): "The longest running reviewzine in the world," they claim, and they're probably right. Of course you have to understand that in context: they stick pretty much to sfanzines. Even so, it would be a valuable resource if you could read the damned thing. Unfortunately a combination of the worst dot-matrix printing I've ever seen and spotty photocopy makes this so illegible as to be hopeless. I can't even figure out some of the addresses, because all the numbers look alike.

FIELD TRIP Pre-release (SASE from Paul Rydeen, 3930 W. Beach Blvd. #S-7, Biloxi, MS 39531): At last, a pfanzine from Mississippi. I was beginning to think the U.S. only had 49 states. Anyhow, this "pre-release" is one page of excruciatingly small print (yes, smaller than this) reproducing a 1913 letter from Futurist Luigi Russolo, in which he talks about the futility of the orchestra and the coming art of noise. I wonder, though, whether he would have found modern punk to be any more innovative than Beethoven?

FIFTH ESTATE Spring 1987 (50 cents from PO Box 02548, Detroit, MI 48202): An anarchist tabloid with a penchant for theoretical analyses and a deepseated distrust of modern technological society. In this issue various readers rebut John Zerzan's polemic "The Case Against Art", the staff presents a critique of the common practice of working with members of various communist parties, and the automobile is roundly condemned as a plague on society. The letters page has been getting longer and longer, as the hornet nests keep getting stirred up. Nice graphics too, like the anti-work bacover poster.

FILE 770:63 (\$1.25 a copy from Mike Glycer, 5828 Woodman Ave. #2, Van Nuys, CA 91401): Mike's collection of all the sfannish gossip that's fit to print (or otherwise) rolls along, and even though he won't trade with crud like FF I still have my sources. The latest Hugo Awards controversy is finally dying out (don't ask), the 1989 Worldcon crew is planning to take over the world, and various conventions and parties are described for those peons who weren't invited.

FILM THREAT #11 (\$2.95 from PO Box 951, Royal Oak, MI 48068): Editor Chrisitan Gore pulls together a bizarre group of commentaries on film, including a letter from John Hinckley explaining why he doesn't want to do any movie reviews and Jack Stevenson interviewing John Waters. (If Jack can get the time between lawsuits, by the way, there's another issue of PANDEMONIUM coming -- something to watch

for). Most of the stuff here is pretty far underground -- you can buy it, but most people wouldn't. Gore interviews Richard Kern and Lydia Lunch in this issue, and sex and violence and domination prevail. Pretty sleazy stuff.

FIREWORKS BUSINESS #32 (\$24/yr from Star Route Box 30, Dingmans Ferry, PA 18328): Yes, Virginia, there's a zine for everybody, no matter what their interests. These folks review new fireworks (in blistering terms [no pun intended] when they don't work), pass on industry gossip (marriages, hospitalizations), and print the new Missouri fireworks law in this issue. They also put out an annual trade directory, available for \$15.

FOOTPRINTS (\$1 from PO Box 45057, Boise, ID 83711-5057): A conservative newsletter that believes in both God and the economy. This issue is mainly filled by an article on South Africa sanctions. The author's basic premise is that the American media and the South African blacks have been infiltrated by the Commies, that the one is telling us what the other wants to hear, and that we're making a Horrible Mistake by listening.

FORWARD Fall 1986 (\$2.50 from Christian Research Institute, PO Box 500, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693-0500): These folks look at other religions and movements, particularly those they see as dangerous, and critique them from an evangelical Christian point of view. This time around, Farakhan, the "Aquarian Conspiracy" and Satanism all come in for attack. Though they do have a slight tendency to devolve into conspiratorial worries (looking at these things the same way some leftists regard the Trilateral Commission), all of the articles are footnoted so that the reader, if he's dedicated enough, can go back to the source literature himself.

FOR YOUR SKULL #14 (25 cents & a stamp from 833 1/3 N. Formosa, Hollywood, CA 90046): A black and white comic extravaganza dedicated to punks and cats, not necessarily in that order. Oh yeah, and skulls. Carrie works in interviews with cats as well; this time it's the Mellow Cats, a band from Houston. There's also an interview with John Sandbag, who sends along a cartoon of nasty stuff to do to your enemies.

FRAGMENTS Vol. XXIV (\$10/yr from 146 Jericho Tpke., Floral Park, NY 11001): A quarterly newsletter of simple individualist ideas that has been coming out yearly due to cashflow problems. The problem with this is that there is bound to be a significant death at least once a year, and so every issue becomes a memorial issue. This one is dedicated to Leonard Klienfeld, a modern-day Thoreauvian disciple, and contains an article of his on the meaning of Truth as well as various eulogies.

FRAZZLE #2 (25 cents & a stamp from Eric Mayer, 1771 Ridge Rd. E., Rochester, NY 14622): Eric is a longtime sfanzine publisher who has recently discovered the world of minicomics and wholeheartedly transferred his allegiance. (see KING COTTON, below). FRAZZLE is sort of a synthesis of both fields, being essentially a text mini (though with some short comix) in which Eric can publish bits of his mail and excerpts from the story of his life. Text minis could catch on, but don't expect to see FF become one; it would be 3" x 4" and 2" thick!

THE FREEDOM WRITER Vol. IV #2 (On request from PO Box 589, Great Barrington, MA 01230): "The national newsletter that defends the separation of church and state." Actually, they don't defend it so much as point at the breaches, recoiling in horror. The content of this zine is mainly grim recitations of the activities of the religious right, coupled with the secure faith that once exposed Falweel and his ilk will lose all power. It's an attractive theory, but what if it's wrong?

THE FREEMAN Apr. 1987 (On request from FEE, Irvington-on-Hudson, NY 10533): "A monthly study journal of free market, private property, limited government and ideals" published by the Foundation for Economic Education. In other words, straightforward propaganda for the libertarian insight that people ought to damned well be left alone and everything will be all right. This issue discusses the glories of entrepreneurship, the alternatives to public libraries, and the lack of ethics of redistributing the wealth. Sometimes short on critical points of view, the FREEMAN will provide much ammunition for the person wishing to argue against the

state as it now exists.

THE FREE MARKET (\$7.50/yr from Ludwig von Mises Institute, 322 Massachusetts Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20002): A straightforward devotion to the standard Libertarian theology marks this academic zine. All natural resource depletion has been caused by the government, not individuals; nobody was interested in crack before the media trumpeted it, and if it was just legal a renewed moral fiber would make it unpopular; and so on. Well put and highfalutin' arguments, but it's a one-sided view of the world and of man.

FRIENDS OF THE TREES NEWSLETTER Dec. 1986 (\$1.50 from PO Box 1466, Chelan, WA 98816): This is sort of the year-end greetings edition of FOT, only a few pages long but enough to let you see what they're up to. Trees are not the only concern; a broader sense of nature leads to, for example, selling seeds of various trees and wildflowers. They're also ramping up for the 1987 FOT Yearbook, and are looking for people who want to tie into their network of seed and tree-preservers.

FRONT LINE #4 (On request from Conservative Action Foundation, 1326 G St. SE, Washington, DC 20003): Well, I'm not surprised to see this out there. With enough of the left chaining themselves to things and staging street theater to bring about change, the right had to get the idea too. FL exists to publicize strategies, physical and verbal, for the young conservative to take against those nasty leftwingers. This issue has a batch of stuff on revolutions in Africa and a plan to use the SDI as an anti-nuclear issue to make the left look like pro-nukers. Eloquent and scary.

FTA/PHOENIX Vol. 5 #2 (The Usual from SFAV, PO Box 1772, Victoria, BC V8W 2Y3, CANADA): The combined clubzine and newsletter of the Science Fiction Association of Victoria. Judging by the club news, SFAV is a struggling club, and so they're rightly doing whatever they can to aid in community-building, whether that involves reminiscences about involvement with fandom or the publishing of fan fiction. The graphics are nifty.

FUN (\$1 (?) from 6689 Orchard Lake Rd., #310, W. Bloomfield, MI 48033): A freebie tabloid that probably isn't by mail. All sorts of bizarre art and ads from places the sell old clothes or new lingerie. Most of the rest is parodies of the usual free tabloid garbage: a gossip column, ten best lists, movie reviews done with icons instead of words, and so on. FUN is, but it lacks a certain chewiness, being more like cotton candy than fudge.

F.U.T.U.R.E. Feb. 1987 (\$2 from PO Box 228, Butte, ND 58723): A mixed bag going by the name of "Forming Unity Toward Ultimate Regenerative Evolution". They'll take whatever roads they can find towards a better future, and so an article about

Spirit is next to one urging the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to close a batch of plants. Science and spirituality are prominent throughout. Also comes with a monthly International Calendar of Events, everything from the Northeast Construction Expo to "A Journey to the Source of Herbal Wisdom." I'm glad they're tracking all of those things; it means that I don't have to think about doing it.

GALACTIC CROSSROADS #5 (\$2 from Niles Hokkanen, PO Box 2352, Clarksburg, WV 26301): The only zine for mandolin-players and those of similar musical persuasion. This issue is centered around Cajun music, but there are plenty of other bits and pieces inside. Not for the beginner (although any mandolin player could probably learn something) but for someone interested in sheet music and ideas for a batch of new things to play. Niles also has books and cassettes for sale and is running mandolin classes. Covers just about any type of folk or acoustic string music that you can think of.

THE GATE Apr. 1987 (\$1 from Beth Robbins, PO Box 43518, Richmond Hts., OH 44143): A journal of Fortean. If you're not familiar with the works of Charles Fort, this is a good one to start with, because this issue contains a quick run-down on the life of this master of the bizarre. Fort collected reports of strange things: rains of frogs, planets seen where they shouldn't be, dogs vanishing in a puff of green smoke. If you haven't read his books, you should.

Anyways, now there are lots of people who call themselves Fortean who are still interested in the unexplained. This issue of THE GATE talks about UFOs, the Lake Okanogan monster, ghosts, fingernails on blackboards, and more in a mix of wire service and original articles.

GENERAL STRIKE #18 (44 cents postage from PO Box 23144, Knoxville, TN 37933-1144): The Collage Art Issue of a wide-open young anarchist zine. These guys aren't into throwing bricks but rather want to offer anarchy as a positive alternative to the current system. "Idealism vs. Realism" seems to be the main editorial theme here, but outside of the editorial pages, most of the writers and artists seem to be convinced that some alternative is workable. Reprints anti-authoritarian posters from all over.

GENERIC ALTERNATIVE #5 (50 cents from Stan Smith, 3434 Bluebridge, Abilene, TX 79605): In this issue you get a whole lot of pictures of people doing insane things on skateboards, right after an interview with the editor of GRIM REAPER skatezine. There's also an interview with Heavy Mental, who are rumored to have a new tape coming out soon, and a good dose of Baboon Dooley.

GENIUS WITH A PENIS #1 (\$1 from Julien Nitzberg, PO Box 3054, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601): I would urge you to support this zine for no other reason than that the Vassar administration is harassing the publishers. Fortunately, though rude and crude in spots, there is enough of merit here to warrant support anyhow. Stan contributes a powerful piece about being a Satanist; Mykel Board discusses, um, relations with animals and Bill Scarpelli quickly follows up with the truth about Eskimos and their dogs; and Bill Sweet clues us in on the life and death of chickens. Sexually explicit photography throughout, often without connection to the articles, which may be what caused all the fuss.

GEORGE THE NEW WORLD ACTIVIST #1 1/2 (SASE from PO Box 742, Severna Park, MD 21146): A single-sheeter intended to keep alive the memory of this snide pfanzone. Best thing here is the chronological account of "A Typical Friday Evening", which will ring bells with anyone who's ever tied one on. Also includes the catalog of MAGNETICS EASTERN distribution.

GLITCH NEWS Feb. 1987 (\$7/yr from PO Box 4429, Austin, TX 78765): This one has been changing slowly from a puff sheet for Glitch Records into a combination of Austin scene zine and advice column for the working musician. So besides a batch of record reviews and the rundown on Austin radio, there's also a piece on how to work in a recording studio and an article on buying an amp. Plenty of ads for recording studios, tape duplicating services, and the like.

GOOD LIFE NETWORK (\$1 (?) from Sherrie & Norm Lee, PO Box 3485, Glendale, AZ 85301): That should be enough to get you on the mailing list for a while. S&N used to be homesteading in New York, but they pulled up stakes and headed for warmer climes, where they are now settling in. This flyer is basically a list of books and back issues for sale, together with an update on their activities for those of us who know what they used to be up to. Get a copy if you're at all interested in living close to the land. Incidentally, their previous magazine HOMESTEADERS NEWS is still up for sale to anyone willing to put some hard work into it.

GRASSY KNOLLS GAZETTE IX/86 (\$10/yr from Cutler Designs, PO Box 1465, Manchester, MA 01944): Ah yes, the Conspiracy Theory that would not die. This little newsletter is dedicated to serious investigation of the John Kennedy assassination. The author, trying to get as much as possible into the space, writes somewhat cryptically, so a familiarity with some of the standard assassination literature would help. But for fans of the Umbrella Man, or Hidell, or even the Grassy Knoll itself, this is a good place to get more ideas and confirmation. These days not only the Warren Report but the House Committee needs to be refuted, and there are still people willing to take on the task.

GOOD CAUSES

Some of my libertarian friends will tell you that this is crap, but I am acutely aware that my good life has been helped along immensely by society, and I have a debt to repay. Not having enough cash to send a few bucks to everyone, I concentrate on making donations to those organizations that seem to be doing good work with a low overhead. Here's some of my favorites.

HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL (216 Wachusett St., Rutland, MA 01543-9761): For almost 45 years these people have been sending livestock to underdeveloped countries. The recipient "passes on the gift" by donating the first offspring to someone else, making this a self-supporting, self-help program, after the pump has been primed. Some vegetarians might not see this as a good thing, but you have to remember that there's a lot of land only suitable for grazing, and a lot of people who can desperately use any protein at all. And when the US government is slaughtering dairy cattle, it makes sense to me to find the money to send them overseas instead.

INTERNATIONAL BOOK PROJECT (1440 Delaware Ave., Lexington, KY 40505): Remember the old saw about teaching a man to fish? Well, the IBP provides the books so that the man can learn to fish himself. They link up donors in the US with libraries, schools and volunteers in about 100 developing countries around the world. Right now, as it happens, they have about 40,000 books to send but are almost out of shipping money, so they're looking for financial help. They're also always interested in people who have books they wish to send direct, to help promote global friendships.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY NEWS Feb./March 1987 (Donation from 1800 N. Kent St., Arlington, VA 22209): I don't know how much you have to donate to get on the list, but I'm sure \$20 a year would be plenty. NC has a simple and straightforward approach to preserving the land and protecting its inhabitants: buy it. This may not sound so very impressive until you realize we own something over 2.5 million acres across the country and run over 900 nature preserves. The NEWS features pretty color photography and articles on various of these preserves, as well as news of trips & new acquisitions.

PLENTY BULLETIN Vol. 2 #4 (Donation from Plenty USA, PO Box 90, Summertown, TN 38483): Actually, this is just an excuse to mention Plenty, a charity I think rather well of. They go where they feel needed, and current big projects are supporting health care in Lesotho and just plain survival in Guatemala. They also run the One World Trading Company, which imports goods made by Mayan refugees in order to raise much-needed cash. They'll send you more information on request, and their financial statement is in good shape.

TRANET 45 (\$30/yr from PO Box 567, Rangeley, ME 04970): The "Transnational Network for Appropriate/Alternative Technologies", TRANET is all about helping people stand on their own feet. Their major activity (other than publishing TRANET, the journal) is to send the 100-volume do-it-yourself library to Third World institutions that request copies. The journal carries hundreds of contact addresses, of members, publishers, institutions and others working for social change. Lately they've also shown an openness to re-examining the entire concept of AT.

GREEN ACTION (\$20/yr from PO Box 37, Tempe, AZ 85281): "An Independent Green Publication" that publicizes and endorses quite a number of coalition-building efforts, like the "Grassroots Impeachment Inquiry" campaign or the idea of "Red, Black & Green". I think there's a tendency to go overboard in this direction among the Greens, but there are a lot of central Green articles in this issue also so perhaps they've struck a balance. Nuke testing protests in Nevada are the main story here. More theoretical pieces try to explain decentralization, anarchy and consensus to those who might find them confusing. A very accessible paper, without too much theory to turn newcomers off.

GREENSHEET ADSHEET (\$12/yr from PO Box 1778, Winston, OR 97496): I suspect an SASE would get you a sample issue. This is one of the "Big Mails" publications, a collection of mail-order ads from all over, placed by people who are sure

that amateur bulk mailings will bring them fortune and fame. Rubber stamps, book clubs, Bessie's Best Whey Beverage, personal color counseling, satellite TV, and of course dozens of other Big Mail publications may be found in these pages.

GUIDE MAGAZINE March 1987 (\$1 from PO Box 20533, Seattle, WA 98102): This is the northwest edition of a franchised magazine for "gay men and women and their families", featuring 16 pages that are nationally distributed and 40 that are locally produced. This is growing to be a fairly impressive project, with sections on the arts, health, politics, music, travel, lifestyles and more. There's also a growing classified ad section.

HANDICAP NEWS Vol. 3 #4 (\$2 from Phyllis Burns, 3060 E. Bridge St. #342, Brighton, CO 80601): News of interest on all types of disabilities. Phyllis collects press releases on treatments and aids, support groups and so on. She also publishes a couple of pages of poetry contributed by handicapped people. The net is cast widely, and includes alcoholism as well as blindness, Veterans' health care and rheumatoid arthritis.

HARVEST Vol. 7 #4 (\$10/yr from PO Box 228, S. Framingham, MA 01701): A pagan zine that makes an attempt to connect the religion to today's social and political issues as well as to present ritual and just have a bit of fun. There's always a current news column, and this time Henry Anasazi tackles some difficult questions having to do with drugs, sex and politics. Lady Felice wonders about the ethnic roots of some traditions, while Dehlia presents more of the tongue-in-cheek Flamingo Tradition. Also networking, herbalism and a nice calendar of events.

THE HEATHEN SCIENCE MONITOR Mar.-Apr. 1987 (\$6/yr from PO Box 3181, Traffic Stn., Minneapolis, MN 55303): From the bizarre to the stupid, HSM amply covers the news which no one else would dare to make up. Contents are subject to change without notice, but this time Dr. Sigmund explains why girls like to cook more than boys and P. Ochs Redivivus presents an interminably long ode about Ronnie Raygun.

THE HELPER Fall 1986 (\$20/yr from HRC, PO Box 100, Palo Alto, CA 94302; more info for SASE): The publication of the Herpes Research Center. Yeah, some people will think this is a big joke, a magazine all about a single sexually-transmitted disease, but with half a million or more cases out there I'd say there's both the market and the need for getting the research news out to people. No cures here, though there is a report on trials of a new drug in Britain.

HI-TECH TERROR #20 (\$6/12 issues from Craig Ledbetter, PO Box 5367, Kingwood, TX 77325): A zine that reviews films which I am glad never to have had to watch. Some of the topnotch offerings this time: The Vindicator, Vampire Hookers, and Night Train to Terror. If you want some sort of guide to use around the home video rental place, HTT could do you some good, but personally, I wouldn't spend much on watching these flicks.

HOLIER THAN THOU #25 (\$5 or The Usual from Marty Cantor, 11565 Archwood St., N. Hollywood, CA 91606-1703): A mammoth sfzine that will be totally incomprehensible to any FF readers, and I'm sure that suits Marty just fine. You see, he's publishing in the traditional sfzine mode, which means that, for example, you ought to know why the two articles about Harry Warner's loc-writing factory are funny before you even open the cover. Or that you ought to be prepared to appreciate a reprint of an old Lee Hoffman column. So most of you can just skip down to the next review. But, you hardcore SF fans -- if there are any left -- get this! Buy a copy if you must, then start trading or looting, nominate the thing for a Hugo, and generally contribute to the cause of keeping at least one traditional sfzine alive.

HOLLYWOOD BOOK AND POSTER CO. NEWS (SASE from 1706 N. Las Palmas Ave., Hollywood, CA 90028): The folks who run the shop put out this little zine to plug their products (and if you're interested in movie photos or posters you'll want a copy just for that) and to plug their favorite personalities: comic artists, strippers, porno stars and wrestlers get prominent press in this issue.

HOT FLASHES 9 (\$1.25 from Texas Media Arts Center, 5459 Miller Ave., Dallas, TX 75206): The TMAC and publisher Bob Trammell are trying to encourage and publicize the creativity in their own area. This is a special issue featuring the work of Randy Twaddle. Though based on a performance art piece of his, what appears here is a computerized attempt at reproducing some of the same ambience via desktop publishing. It works rather well as an experience in intermedia mixing. There's also a frantic letters column and an announcement of a new book press.

HUMANE STUDIES REVIEW Vol. 4 #1 (from IHS, George Mason University, 4400 University Dr., Fairfax, VA 22030): After reading through this I'm not sure of the price or the content. If the Institute for Humane Studies were non-academic, I would say this was about a buck. As for content, I still don't know what "Humane Studies" is, but most of what they talk about is "classical individualist liberalism", which sounds mighty close to libertarianism for me. The key article in this issue is a literature review of communitarian criticisms of liberalism and possible responses, while David Beito's article on tax revolts in American history is the most interesting contribution.

THE HUMAN ECOLOGIST #33 (\$5 from HEAL, 7330 N. Rogers Ave., Chicago, IL 60626): That stands for Human Ecology Action League. "Human Ecology" seems to be the study of humans in their environment. They look at subtle effects of chronic viral illnesses or long-term exposures to low levels of pesticides, and provide a network between local groups interested in these issues. This is a hotly debated area of health research, but HE provides a good way into the literature.

ICE RIVER NEWSLETTER Feb. 1987 (\$1.50 from David Memmott, 953 N. Gale, Union, OR 97884): This is a marketing and review newsletter for budding writers, full of poetry reviews, market notes, contest announcements and so on, as well as a few poems (notably B.Z. Niditch's "The Sound of the Voices" in this issue). Reviews cover music, small press books, and zines, sticking fairly close to experimental projects.

IDIOSYNCRACIES #3 & #4 (\$1 for BOTH from Joel Patenaude, 220 Lake St., Mt. Horeb, WI 53572): A special package deal for FF readers, you can't beat that. This zine is still growing as Joel discovers his editorial voice and develops some publishing self-confidence. Now he's talking with his readers instead of just to them, and his messages are a bit less oblique than in the first couple of issues. Still, the major message is just that one can get high on life, and when one does, all sorts of bizarre poems and anecdotes will fly out. John Ivens has joined the staff to add some comic relief to Joel's more serious persona. High school publishing isn't doing poorly these days.

INDUSTRIAL WORKER Mar. 1987 (\$1.50/6 months from 3435 N. Sheffield #202, Chicago, IL 60657): The Industrial Workers of the World, their ranks quite a bit smaller than when the Wobblies were felt to be a menace to society, are still hanging in there and calling for One Big Union to put pressure on the bosses. Their monthly tabloid discusses all sorts of labor news (whether involving IWW members or not). Did you realize the Hormel P-9 union, despite decertification and other hassles, is still hanging in there? Also includes some revolutionary rhetoric and analysis of strategies.

INFO JOURNAL #51 (\$3 from PO Box 367, Arlington, VA 22210-0367): The magazine of the International Fortean Organization (if you don't know about Charles Fort, see the GATE review above), jam-packed with curiosities. The attitude here is that strange things may exist in the world around us, but we need hard evidence -- thus the lead article on giant octopus sightings in the British Isles concludes that there haven't been any. Also of interest are a listing of Bigfoot sightings in Maryland, a rundown on events around Loch Ness not involving sea serpents, and a column called "ForTech" on various types of crank science. Lots of contact addresses are printed and Charles Fort T-shirts are offered for sale.

THE INHABITANTS OF HELL (75 cents from Blatant Image, 65 Ingraham St., Bristol, CT 06010): The cover of this minicomic says "A Discovery of the Infernal World. By Anon, circa 1740,

pictures by Moiseiwitsch". Make of that what you will. The illustrations are all done in a harsh black-and-red stabbing-pen style, and for the most part feature people in various stages of distress. Sample caption: "Hell the most delightful place as it is the fountain of news and politics."

INSIDE EDGE Nov. 1986 (from Shoalhaven Community Radio, PO Box 884, Nowra, 2541 NSW, AUSTRALIA): If you want a copy of this tabloid I suggest sending a couple of IRCs and a nice letter. SCR-FM is a public radio station, deeply interested in community building. Besides the pieces you might expect on music and radio programming and technology, they talk about nuclear free zones, the homeless, and animal welfare. An attempt to encompass several good causes under one roof and give them a voice in the world.

INSIDE JOKE 51 (\$1 from Elayne Wechsler, PO Box 1609, Madison Sq. Stn., New York, NY 10159): Elayne has been having printer problems lately and her schedule is suffering, but IJ is still very much alive despite this. As a newsletter of "comedy and creativity", IJ publishes mostly short and bizarre fiction, although there are other bits of both here in spots like Anni Ackner's column or Ho Chi Zen's continuing parables. Various regulars also review comics, movies, music and so on, with Elayne herself chiming in on the TV reviews. The cartoonists seem to be getting better lately, and the letter column continues to provide criticism, constructive and otherwise, on the previous issue. A fun read that I wish I could spend more time on.

THE INSIDER Vol. 2 #3 (On Request from CRI, PO Box 500, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693-0500): The monthly of the Christian Research Institute. This issue is basically devoted to attacking degenerate liberal Protestantism and its willingness to talk to those who engage in such Satanic practices as channeling or thinking for themselves.

THE INSIDER GUN NEWS Vol. 1 #2 (\$50/yr from Gunpress Publishing Co., 443 Springvale Rd., Great Falls, VA 22066): A monthly newsletter devoted to explaining "Behind-the-scenes trends in politics, industry and the pro- and anti-gun groups". This issue is mainly devoted to exploring the labyrinthine internal politics of the NRA. Editor John Aquilino does a good job of presenting this and other news (including what he says is the story behind the Pentagon decision to buy Italian pistols), but I wonder whether he can continue to find such good stories as time goes on? If so, this will be worth keeping an eye on, however you feel about the Second Amendment.

INSIGHT Dec. 1986 (\$2 from Spiritual Frontiers Fellowship, 1315 Zealand Ave. N, Minneapolis, MN 55427): That's the price for a packet of introductory literature. The SFF is a loosely-connected group of people that runs various workshops, retreats and what-not for those looking for enlightenment. INSIGHT is basically a listing of what's going on.

INSTAURATION Mar. 1987 (\$3.75 from Howard Allen, PO Box 76, Cape Canaveral, FL 32920): Reviewing this one is touchy, because there is a good argument for dumping it in with the Hate Literature: INSTAURATION's contributors believe that the dominant culture in this country is being diluted and destroyed by the infusion of unassimilable minority groups. As an objective judgment that is probably true -- the question is whether one disapproves and if so, whether something ought to be done about it. To make things worse, they state things in racial rather than cultural terms. On the other hand, the facts are true, the writing is literate, and the production quality is high. It's just the interpretations that will make many people queasy.

THE INTERNATIONAL #5 (SASE & stamps from John Rininger, PO Box 2479 Stn. A, Champaign, IL 61820): Actually John is the contact person rather than the publisher -- "William Jones" is a US soldier stationed in Germany who would prefer to lie low. The reason for this is that INTERNATIONAL is basically a review of US diplomatic and military policy, reprinting major news stories (fighting in Vietnam, maneuvers in Honduras, arms talks) and then commenting on them from sort of an anarcho-cynicalist point of view. This could be very unpopular with the military hierarchy.

INTERNATIONAL BAROMETER Vol. 2 #7 (\$160/yr from 1025 Connecticut Ave. NW #707, Washington, DC 20036): "Activist Pressure on Business" is the subtitle here, and the goal is to let everyone know what everyone else is doing, and to build networks as possible. Biotechnology opponents, rainforest preservers and those worried about pesticides are prominent in this issue. However you may feel about the issues involved (and isn't it interesting that these "public voice" advocates need to educate the public in order to get its voice?), the price is simply outrageous for a six-page monthly, no matter how well produced. Subscribe to the UTNE READER or MOTHER JONES or something instead. You might miss a bit of specialized news but you won't be broke.

INTERRRUPT NOW (\$2 from E. Klingsberg, PO Box 2077, New Haven, CT 06521): A pfanzine that features a bunch of short articles on major background figures to underground culture: Crowley, Burroughs, Kerouac, and more. Musically they range all over the place too: a Motley Crue interview and a Dead Milkmen interview are just a few pages apart. But then things are sort of jumbled together in this 70-pager as the editors are investing some effort in trying to break down linear thinking. It works, but the changes are almost too slambang fast, thanks to the abundance of small articles. One barely has time to get used to one new bizarritty before the next comes along. If they would cover a few in depth, IN would be greatly improved.

IPPL NEWSLETTER March 1987 (\$10/yr from PO Box 766, Summerville, SC 29484): The International Primate Protection League is concerned with the shitty way that we treat some of our closest animal relatives. A lot of this issue is about gorilla smuggling, tracing the fate so far of one particular kid who had his mother shot so he could go to a Japanese zoo. In fact, the emphasis is generally international, with stopping the worldwide trade in primates viewed as one of the main steps towards protecting them. It sounds good to me.

ISSUE #69 Ninth Issue (50 cents from Major Morality Press, 1283 Woodside Ave., San Luis Obispo, CA 93401): A pfanzine with very little music content — the editor prefers to concentrate on politics and social trends instead. What this means is a generous helping of news on Central America, Reagan's brain, nuclear testing, the draft, break-ins by the FBI, and so on. It's nice to have a lot of this stuff handy all in one place, and nicer still to see it getting out to the punk community, but still a bit depressing.

ISSUES & VIEWS Vol. 2 #5 (\$8/yr from PO Box 467, New York, NY 10025): "An Open Forum on Issues Affecting the Black Community" is the by-line here. I wish I'd seen it before so I'd know whether this was a special issue or their usual slant. In any case, almost all of this copy is devoted to one theme: that the black community needs more entrepreneurship. Success stories are paraded alongside tales of woe which are blamed on the lack of means to keep money in the community. While no specific political ideas are espoused, the general tone is libertarian.

IT'S ABOUT TIME Dec. 1986 (\$24/yr from Chronology History Research Institute, PO Box 3043, Spencer, IA 51301): These people are applying various computer programs to try and straighten out the chronology of the Bible, correlate it with astronomical data, and so on. Most of their articles discuss the placement of particular Biblical events on the timeline thus created, remarking on significant spans of time (777 weeks, for example) or anniversaries to be observed.

IT'S ONLY A MOVIE Vol. II #3 (\$1.25 from Michael Flores, Psychotronic Film Society, 54 W. Randolph St. #606-E2, Chicago, IL 60601): A zine devoted to strange and icky films, featuring columns and articles from many of the acknowledged experts in the field: Del Close, Michael Weldon, Dan Krogh and Michael Flores himself, for example. The PFS also sponsors various showings and events and sells strange videotapes.

JAG Vol. 25 #4 (On request from R.S. Jaggard, M.D., 10 E. Charles, Oelwein, IA 50662): Basically a libertarian broadside that wants the government to get the hell out of everything, starting with medical care. This issue, rather than attacking the government directly, tells readers about IATROS, an international group of physicians and surgeons dedicated to keeping strong the Hippocratic link between

patient and doctor, despite government intervention or corporate medicine.

JAIHIND FRIENDSHIP MAGAZINE Oct. 1986 (6 IRCs from PO Box 29, Guwahati-781 001, INDIA): A penfriend magazine with somewhat confused but generally decipherable English. Besides listings from those wanting to write, they do various travel & personality features on India and provide a sort of international writers' classified advertising section.

JAMAICA PLAIN ARTS NEWS (\$18/23 issues from PO Box 3, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130): Eagle-eyed readers of FF will recognize JP as home to THE NOISE magazine, but this tabloid is a zine of a different color. Their main current activity is the construction of a "multicultural community arts center" in an old firehouse. Seems to be a dedicated bunch of folks, although the main artist in this issue is an accordion-playing performance artist.

JAVA VI (\$1 from Ann Wood, c/o What's This?, 223 N. Ninth St., Columbia, MO 65201): A slick-covered but accessible magazine of art and creativity. It opens with a two-page spread of Larry Oberc's drawings, moves through Luna Ticks' comics and Erin Archer's emotionally touching story and proceeds through divestment to end up with some more hopeful visual imagery. Scattered throughout are drawings and poems, as well as dashes of more serious stuff for seasoning. Ann is planning an all-comics summer issue, so send your work in for that right away.

JAZZ (PO Box 3, Stn. B, London, ONT N6A 4V3): I received a packet of mail art with this address on it. It includes a show announcement dating back to 1973, a poster called "Politics: A Dirty Gamer" and announcing the formation of something called "Movement"; and a large poster that appears to be from a computer trade show. Further deponent sayeth not.

J.D.s #2 (\$2 from Bruce La Bruce c/o 365 Queen St. East, Toronto, ONT M5A 1T2, CANADA): Fairly softcore homemade punk homosexual pornography. The folks who put out J.D.s are heavily into tattoos, women bikers, photography of male singers with very few clothes on, and stories about getting laid by another guy. There are a couple of explicit split salami shots, but other than that, a lot is left to the imagination.

JERRYCO Catalog 31 (\$1 from 601 Linden Pl., Evanston, IL 60202): My favorite surplus catalog. There are usually a few military surplus things here — like Norden bombsights — but the bulk of this stuff is industrial leavings. Prices are generally good, with most everything being in the two to ten buck range. They carry silly things, like rubber slugs, as well as all sort of mechanical and electrical gizmos. The labels I use to seal FF when I bulk mail copies came from Jerryco.

JERSEY BEAT #30 (\$1 from Jim Testa, 418 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, NJ 07087): JB is running interviews again after skipping them for a while; Neurotic Impulse and Mike Mindless still the heart of this pfanzine, though, running the gamut from pop to heavy metal. But the "Ask the Anarchist" advice column is just stupid.

JET LAG #75 (\$1.25 from 8419 Halls Ferry Rd., St. Louis, MO 63147-1806): Some people recently have been condemning JET for being perhaps too eclectic. If this is to say that nobody will like everything, it's a fair critique. On the other hand, everyone will probably like something. JL this time covers XTC, Don Dixon, Game Theory, Robyn Hitchcock, Plan 9 and more — a strange mix of the commercially successful, the underground darlings, and the completely unknown. Reviews seem to have been getting longer and less stereotypical in recent issues, which is always a welcome development.

JOHN COLTRANE STEREO NEWS #1 (\$3 from Pat Thomas, Box 490 RD2, Spencer Hill Rd., Corning, NY 14830): A fanzine (with the accent on "fan") devoted to Dream Syndicate, plus related groups like Green on Red and Danny & Dusty. Mainly a batch of ravings about tour appearances, and mainly in Europe, because the other editor, Bent Sorensen, likes in Denmark. There are

also reviews of a bunch of obscure things and offers to trade, which seems to mean that these guys have no objection to bootlegs.

JUKEBOX Nummer 3-86 (\$12/4 issues from Radmansgatan 74, 113 60 Stockholm, SWEDEN): I don't know if these people are still publishing (this is a year old), but JUKEBOX is one of the more amusing European pfanazines I've seen. Most of it is in Swedish, but the parts in English, well... "This is a real rave up! They kill most of the peebles stuff. You all stupid fellows like me living in the 60's forever, do try to get your filthy hands on this vinyl." Is this for real? Who knows. Most of the stuff appears to be either the groups or styles of the Sixties.

JUSTICE ADVOCATE UPDATE #12 (\$10/yr CASH from PO Box 3125, Denver, CO 80201): A continuing service from the folks who publish **LIBRARY FOR SCHOLARS** [see FF21 BOOKS], on current use of their legal strategies for getting out of everything from income taxes to traffic tickets. They report both victories and defeats for Constitutionalist strategies in the courts, and offer plenty of more detailed information papers for sale.

KALX (2311 Bowditch St., Berkeley, CA 94704)
KSSB (Cal State San Bernardino, 5500 University Pkwy, San Bernardino, CA 92407)

KZSC (UC Santa Cruz, CA, 95064): These three stations sent me copies of recent playlists. Frankly there's not a whole lot to be gleaned out of these unless you live in the area or are promoting records. KALX reports adding everything they get to the airplay list, but then DJs choose their own music. KSSB lists the local record stores and clubs and has lists for jazz, reggae, blues and folk as well as rock. KZSC is into all sorts of music and boasts an especially extensive list of indie cassettes. Support your local college radio.

KING COTTON #1-#3 and **KING COTTON INC.** (25 cents & a stamp each from Eric Mayer, 1771 Ridge Rd. E, Rochester, NY 14622): The first three issues of this minicomic featuring a cotton ball battling a boll weevil and his own evil brother are pretty funny, but even better they're delightfully surreal. Having remained undrawn for 25 years, the characters find themselves in the trash, and are desperate to survive, not only each other's attacks, but the work of their author as well. Quite intriguing. KCI is a text mini, recounting the original story of Eric's fifth-grade comics business which started these characters off.

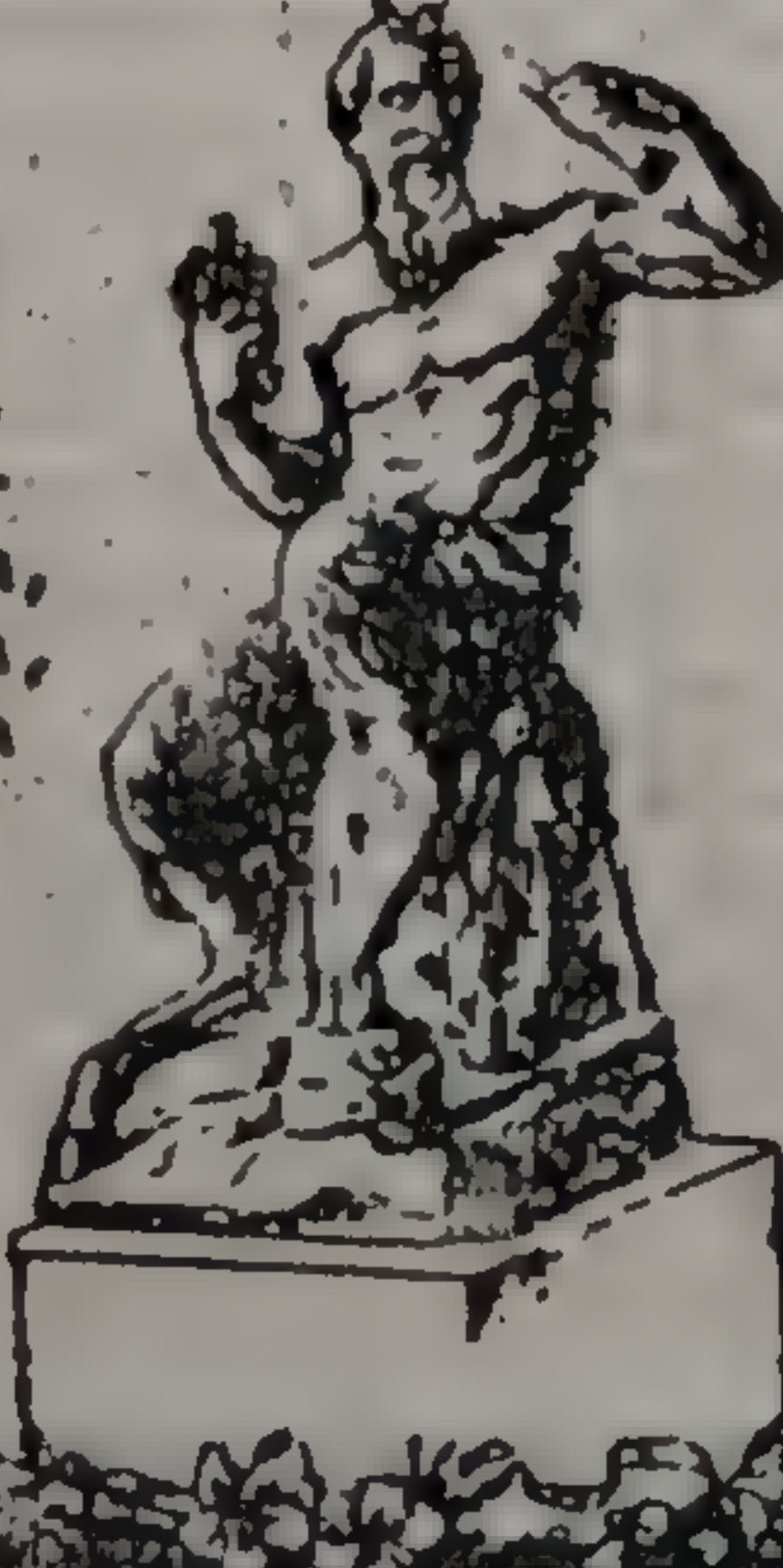
K.P. INC. #8 (22 cents postage from Dave, 3457 Fremont Ave. No., Minneapolis, MN 55412): In an unusual move for a handwritten pfanazine, Dave maintains that major label records are not necessarily the scum of the earth. He follows this up by including a Joan Jett show in his live reviews (along with such artists as SNFU and Bad Brains). Dave also reviews records and provides a listing of fanzines with minimal commentary.

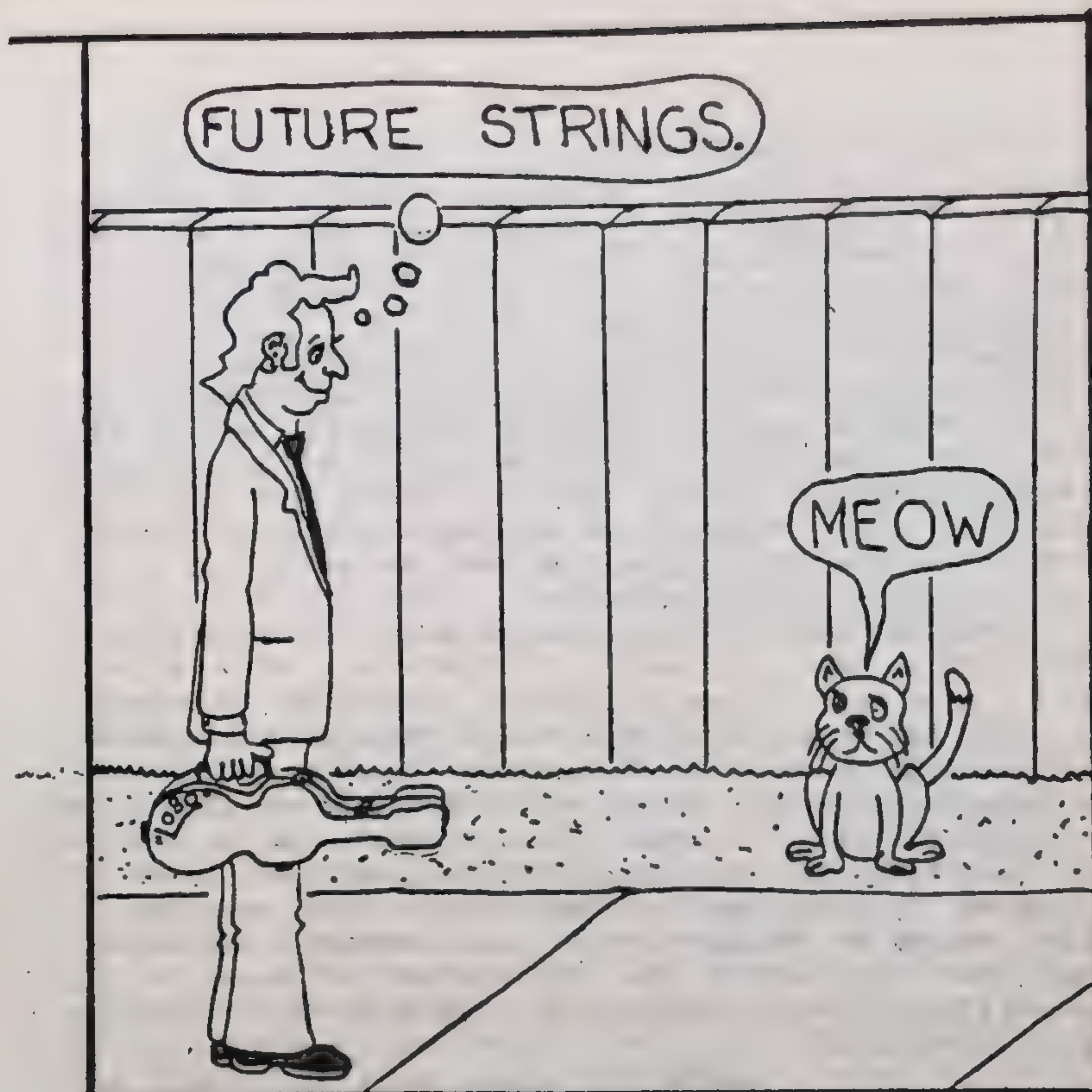
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LAB36 (\$1 from Eddie Flowers, PO Box 1373, Culver City, CA 90232): Or it says in the editorial, "L.A. Blues rant", so I guess you can call it what you want. What's inside is a radical departure from past issues (or so Eddie claims -- I never saw it before), and reminds me of early issues of **FACTSHEET FIVE**, in that fanzine and record and movie and live show reviews are all mixed up together in no particular order. Unlike those early FFs, though, LAB concentrates on music and is neatly printed -- either honest-to-god typesetting or desktop publishing at its best. Eddie is opinionated but not an asshole, and this zine makes for good reading. Includes lots of things you won't find in FF too.

THE LAME MONKEY MANIFESTO Vol. 1 #4 (\$1 from Christopher Gray, PO Box 8763, Knoxville, TN 37996-4800): All of a sudden I'm getting half a dozen zines from Knoxville -- I guess UT must be back in session or something. LMM is a tabloid that in fact revolves around campus life, with most of this issue devoted to rating instructors without permission of the administration -- I'm glad to see that that still goes on somewhere! #3 has serious stuff on sexual ads on television, Ivan Stang writing about the Three Stooges as personality archetypes, and a "Just Say Yes!" page. The underground student paper is alive and well and living in Tennessee.

THE LANTERN'S LIGHT Vol. 2 #1 (\$18/yr from The Magick Lantern, 1715 Westport Rd., Kansas City, MO 64111): A pagan zine of wide tastes, good humor, and much networking (one of the contributors maintains a pagan BBS at 913-888-3854). I got a giggle out of the cartoon contrasting Prana Yoga and Piranha Yoga. On the more serious side, there are articles on the origins of Candlemas and water magic. On the "real world" side is an excellent summary of this year's anti-Wicca legislation in the Congress, and some more on Circle's zoning (and other) troubles. Extensive and carefully produced.

LEAVENWORTH JACKSON RUBBER STAMP CATALOG (\$2 from 175 Belvedere St., San Francisco, CA 94117): Leavenworth sells all sorts of nifty rubber stamps and of course all the appurtenances like stamp pads. These are beautiful reproductions of engravings, in wonderful detail -- remember the Tenniel engravings from **ALICE IN WONDERLAND**? Well, most of those are here, and that should give you some idea of the lavish detail. Also lots of assorted body parts, chickens, palm trees, and assorted what-not. Prices from \$3 to \$6.50, 50% discount if you mount 'em yourself.

THE LETTER EXCHANGE #11 (\$4 from PO Box 6218, Albany, CA 94706): My word (and everyone else's, apparently), LEX has grown in the past few years. The Letter Exchange is basically a forum for getting letter-writers together (as opposed to pen-pals, which is something else again). Anonymous listings invite one to write about Bach, or the Beatles, or business, or the baby boom, by taking advantage of LEX's free mail-forwarding service to establish

communication. There's also a letter section and various musings on the art of writing letters. Believe me, LEX works -- it's been a couple of years since I've had time to answer any of these listings, mainly because I'm still sharing lots of letters with the people I first got in touch with!

LETTER FROM PLYMOUTH ROCK Vol. 9 #2 (On Request from Plymouth Rock Foundation, PO Box 425, Marlborough, NH 03455): I was going to just toss this but these people are too funny to ignore: "during 1987, the ACLU intends to file a series of lawsuits demanding that all cities in the nation which 'carry the taint of Christianity' be renamed. Its goal is to force public referendums to change the name of such cities as Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, Corpus Christi..." This is just one of the outrageous claims these religious rightists make.

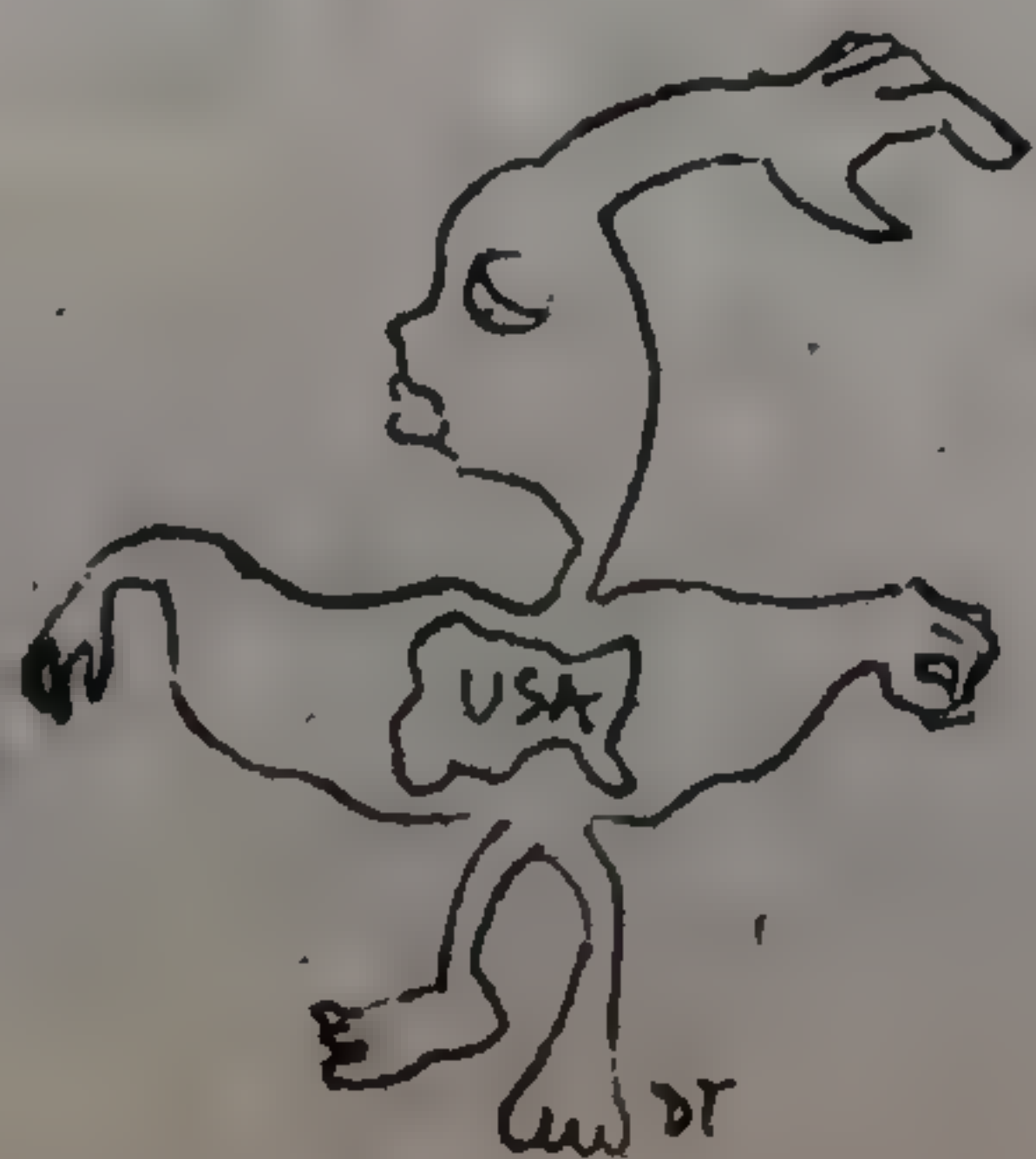
LFL REPORTS #6 (\$3 from 13424 Hatahway Dr., Wheaton, MD 20906): That three bucks will get you samples of various pamphlets and papers as well as an issue of this journal from the Libertarians For Life, an anti-abortion (or, as they prefer to put it, pro-life) group. They work both to convince libertarians that the pro-lifers have something valuable to say and vice versa. It's apparently an uphill battle on both fronts. The basic argument to the libertarians is that parents are obliged to their children, even before those children are born, and therefore abortion cannot be seen as rights in conflict since the parents have waived any rights they might have had. I think.

LGLC NEWSLETTER (\$1 from 1800 Market St. #210, San Francisco, CA 94102): The Libertarians for Gay and Lesbian Concerns are still putting on a class act here. Three major articles in this issue: discussions of both conservative and liberal assaults on individual rights; and a very fascinating one (reprinted from BAY WINDOWS) on the homosexual scene (such as it is) in the USSR. For anyone who cares about individual sexual freedom this is an essential source of often chilling news.

THE LIBERTARIAN 2/13/87 (\$10/yr from LPNM, Route 2, Box 20-A, Sapello, NM 87745): Not the only zine with some version of this title, this one comes from the Libertarian Party of New Mexico. The LP doesn't do too poorly out there, having gotten 12% of the vote in a couple of contests last year -- maybe there is something to this rugged Western individualist idea after all. Along with an assortment of party news, this issue attacks drug testing on several fronts and reviews David Stockman's book as an expose of governmental bumbling.

THE LIBERTARIAN FAMILIST Vol. 6 #2 (On Request from 5324 Sun Valley Dr., El Paso, TX 79924): I had thought LF in the doldrums, but with this issue they're in the thick of things again. They lead off with an open letter regarding Ron Paul's candidacy for the Libertarian Party 1988 Presidential nomination (incidentally, American Indian activist Russell Means is another contender). William Howell charges that Paul's voting record in Congress shows him to be a conservative and not interested in individual liberty at all. There's also a reprint of a Jarret Woolstein article on falsely divisive issues in the movement, which will be somewhat ironic if the debate on Paul's principles takes off.

LIBERTARIAN LABOR REVIEW #2 (\$2 from PO Box 2824, Stn. A, Champaign, IL 61820): A new anarcho-syndicalist journal. Syndicalists basically believe in a workplace-based revolution organized from the grassroots up. Many of the articles in this issue explore the syndicalist critique of current, "collaborative" unions, which, they say, trade away the workers' interests for the union leaders' power. There



are also bits of news of other anarchist and revolutionary syndicalist groups, and yet another retrospective on the Spanish Civil War. Well-written articles that explain without preaching.

LIBERTARIAN WORKERS BULLETIN May 1986 (\$4 from Mutual Aid, PO Box 20, Parkville 3052, Melbourne, AUSTRALIA): That is "Libertarian" in the old sense of "anarchist" and not in the contemporary American "Propertarian" sense. This is a special issue for the centenary of Australian anarchism, full of retrospectives and celebratory plans. There are some concerns here not often found in US anarchist zines, like the call to use Esperanto and the discussion of "Anarchism and Health Care". There's also an extensive, international guide to anarchist magazines.

LIFE ON PLANET EARTH #5 (SASE from Embassy of Planet Claire, PO Box 85807, Seattle, WA 98145): A single-sheet humor zine published whenever the editor feels like it. This time he devotes most of the space to explaining Reverse Logic, a system which connects any event with any other event past, present or future, as either cause or effect -- sort of like Economics. There's also a screed on what's wrong with people who eat bean sprouts.

LIGHT IN THE BUSHEL #4 (\$1 or The Usual from Richard Brandt, 4740 N. Mesa #111, El Paso, TX 79912): LITB is a sfzine in one of the traditional modes, in which the editor discourses for a few pages on whatever happens to catch his fancy and then opens his pages to letters. One unusual feature is that Richard tried to read every bit of fantasy sf he could get his hands on in 1986, and now he spews out opinions on a great pile of last year's books, some good, some turkeys. The zine succeeds in what it is doing thanks to Richard's own honesty (and despite his flashes of depression) and to the caliber (generally high) of the Loccers.

LIGHT TIMES (\$2 from PO Box 84366, Los Angeles, CA 90073): Thank god there are still people out there who endorse the idea that drugs can be used for one heck of a good time, and do it with wit and intelligence. Besides a notable hallucinogen content, LT also has astrology, kooks (like the guy who wants to sell Flying Submarines to the US Government), astrology, the 12 Famous Buddha Minds School Entrance Exam, cryptic sayings, press releases, and tons more. Sort of like a supplement to the PRINCIPIA DISCORDIA but depending more heavily on the humor created by other lunatics than on their own carefully crafted inventions. Recommended for anyone who ever wished the ILLUMINATUS! trilogy was for real.

LITTLE FREE PRESS #59 (FREE from 2714 1st Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 55408): Yeah, it's free, but it doesn't hurt to send some stamps or even a bit of cash if you want to help Ernest Mann continue this project. Ernest advocates "priceless economics", the idea that everything should be free and then life would be a lot less hassle. He's got lots of arguments to back himself up, and in recent issues he's been printing letters that show a lot of other people thinking along some of the same lines. Maybe the revolution IS brewing. Anyhow, this is worth a look even if you think it must be dead wrong from what I've said. If dedication could change the world, we'd have the priceless economics already.

THE LITTLE KINGDOM COME (\$1 from Box 1, Central City, CO 80427): Central City is apparently far enough off the beaten path that beer, bars, and bad taste are still in, and \$500 ski outfits are out. (Ads "Must be tacky" to be published). Lots of local humor, plenty of rude ads, urinalysis of the city government (they all drink Coors), and a tastefully-posed "Gunslinger of the Month" (his vital parts covered by a bottle of booze) are the main contents of this issue. If you want a more relaxed social contract, this might be the place to go.

THE LITTLE RHINO GAZETTE #5 (\$1.50 from Undercover Publications, PO Box 14139, Arlington, TX 76094-1139): Hey, this could be the essence of the next culture here, you never know. Doses (large enough to entertain, not so large as to bog one down) of music, poetry, zine reviews, comic reviews and letters, all between one set of covers. Besides rhinos, the editors also favor alternative radio, Brazil (the movie), creativity and forcing their readers to subscribe to FF, so how could I not like them?

LITERARY

That's entirely too highfalutin' a term, but I don't know what else to call the stuff in this box. These are the zines that you can turn to for short stories (usually with illustrations and poetry and letters as well), often selected with much care by a dedicated editor. I've tried to cast my net wide here, just to give some idea of what the alternatives are for the curious reader.

ALPHA ADVENTURES #15 (\$2.25 from S.C. Virtes, 4 Warwick Dr., New Milford, CT 06776): A little digest of science fiction and fantasy. This issue was tantalizing, with a few stories that almost, but not quite, made it. William Marden's "If This Should Ever Get Out" was close on the SF side, but the suspension of disbelief collapsed microseconds after the ending. Don Webb's "Brother B----, His Story" is a minor fantasy effort that is oddly mundane for him. All in all, I got the most out of James Manley's cheerful Feghoot, "The Creatures".

ASTRO-ADVENTURES #1 (\$4.50 from Cryptic Publications, 107 E. James St., Mount Olive, NC 28365): "Scientifiction" was the name for the genre in its formative years, and now by dint of taking new stories by old writers and previously-unpublished manuscripts, editor Robert Price has managed to put together an issue of a zine that could have been published 50 years ago, with stories from Clark Ashton Smith, Lin Carter, Carl Jacobi and Frank Belknap Long. This stuff couldn't get published professionally today, but it's sort of fun to read about mad scientists, lost civilizations, Mars colonies and all the rest from the heroic age of SF.

ASYLUM Vol. 2 #4 (\$2.50 from PO Box 8234, Mission Hills, CA 91346): A mix of obscure stories, obscure poetry, and obscure literary criticism. Things are hinted at but not revealed; the protagonists of the stories begin or end their paragraphs in madness. Jerome Klinkowitz appraises Richard Kostelanetz, and Eric Basso talks about a book from Maurice Blanchot. Laurence Millman's "Zeke", written in the form of an extended hallucinatory reverie, caught my eye, but I'm not sure the payoff was worth the slogging.

AZTEC PEAK Oct. 1986 (\$2.50 from Westward Publications, 542 S. 35th Circle, Mesa, AZ 85204): "A Writers' World", this small zine publishes poetry, contest news and advice as well as short-short stories. The writing is pretty mainstream, and nothing grabbed me on a first reading, which is the essential one.

BEYOND #7 (\$4.50 from Other Worlds Books, PO Box 1124, Fair Lawn, NJ 07410): A nice zine of SF & fantasy, about half as thick as what you're holding. As is often the case with the small press, the best stories are in a fantastic vein: Dan Crawford's one-act play "Six Pewter Figures in Search of a Dungeon Master" is perhaps the ultimate D&D story, and Sue Marra's "Hannah's Hitchhiker" is a vampire story with a surprising new twist. These are only the standouts from an excellent crop of a dozen stories, plus poems and art. One of the best in the field.

GRUE #4 (\$4 from Peggy Nadramia, PO Box 370, Times Square Stn., New York, NY 10108): A newish horror digest that has already grown to near 100 pages long. With so many short stories (14 in this issue, not counting the poems) to choose from, I can only mention a few of the best. Bentley Little's "Snow" makes a childhood commonplace into a chilling tale; J.N. Williamson's "Townkiller" is a fascinating portrayal of a psychopath at work; and W.H. Pugmire's "Swamp Rising" is in the best tradition of Lovecraft, complete with nonsensical details like "things that could be either arms or tentacles".

LATE KNOCKING Vol. II #4 (\$12/4 issues from Harford Poetry Society, PO Box 336, Forest Hill, MD 21050): This one would have gone as well in the POETRY column, being about 50% each poetry and prose with some full-page art. Whether by accident or design the majority of the contributions are fairy tales or close to it. Probably the best of the bunch is Laura Jacobsen's "The Vanishing of Wid", a fun little tale that succeeds in being cheery despite presenting a realistically yukky picture of medieval life.

NEW PATHWAYS #7 (\$3 from MGA Services, PO Box 863994, Plano, TX 75086-3994): A year old, NP is developing into an impressive science fiction magazine, vastly more impressive than the usual semi-prozine that only publishes new people. In this issue we have an interview with rising star K.W. Jeter, a letter from Phil Dick discussing his VALIS experience, part of a continuing series of "Enigma" stories from Brian Aldiss, and art by the likes of Ferret and Matt

Howarth. But I've saved the best for last: John Shirley's "Parakeet", an anti-war story revolving around technological trench warfare in the 21st century, and Don Webb's short and funny "Lesser Myths of Milwaukee", starring the God Dionysius.

OAK SQUARE #6 (\$2.50 from PO Box 1238, Allston, MA 02134): "The short fiction quarterly" seems an odd subtitle -- surely they know that there are others? This stuff doesn't stand out for me, being short mainstream pieces without enough room for much plot or character development. Vignettes, really, rather than stories. Rachel Cann's

"Lester" stands out from the rest, in that it seems to have some story line in it, but it's only by comparison.

PANOPLY #1 (\$1.30 & 9x13 envelope from Mark Slatcher, 11833 E. 62nd St., Broken Arrow, OK 74012): A new entry to the market, and it's a bit shaky this time around. The two stories here are pleasant diversions, but not much more, and the poetry failed to do much for me. On the other hand, they've announced a letter section that is intended to act as a soapbox for strong opinions, which could prove interesting. Obviously put together with a lot of care and dedication, PANOPLY needs to find some first-class writers who don't mind working within somewhat restrictive guidelines on things like sex, violence and profanity in order to get going.

PHOBIA #5 (\$1 (?) from PO Box 5060, Kent, OH 44240): This is on the borders of being "literary"; it's part of what I think of as the new wave of litzines. Art and stories and story fragments all mix together, and the object is to create moods and thought more than plots and characters. Some of this stuff turns into pointless experimental writing, but much is the honest expression of real feelings, something not often found in slick mainstream magazines.

PORTENTS #2 (\$3.50 from Deb Rasmussen, 12 Fir Pl., Hazlet, NJ 07730): With 9 short horror stories in 60 pages (not to mention nifty art, a few reviews and a Stephen King crossword), the challenge here is to provide a shock with a minimum of space for development. It's tough, but enough of these succeed to make the reading worth the while. Of particular note are Kevin Spiers' "Trial Run", which manages to be both surprising and funny in less than two pages, and David Starkey's "Un-Yellow School Bus", a tale of mundane horror with a most unexpected ending. As an added bonus, the artwork matches up with the stories quite well, obviously having been specifically commissioned. Nice work.

SF SPECTRUM 8 (\$4 or 7 IRCs from W. Tumulka, 14 Sheerstock, Haddenham, Near AYLESBURY, Bucks., HP17 8EN, U.K.): For the price you get a whole pile of little booklets, all part of the overall zine but with their own covers. SF SPECTRUM proper is SF, including Steve Dix's cute "The Final Note" which will brighten the day of many a fan. MACABRE is for horror, of course, with Jerry Eubank's non-traditional "Guardian Agent" being the standout. SF SPECTRUM EXTRA is where the book and zine reviews hide out. WOLF PACK is a sort of nature/fantasy poetry chapbook by Dwight Humphries. COSMIC COMMENTS is all letters, and SF WRITERS & POETS rounds out the package with a look at Frank Herbert. An impressive amount of work goes into this multi-volume publication.

SPACE & TIME #72 (\$4 from Gordon Linzner, 138 W. 70th St. #4B, New York, NY 10023-4432): This is, to put it bluntly, a whopper: 120 pages of tightly-packed reduced print, over a dozen science fiction short stories & novellas. It's hard to know where to begin; my personal favorites were John

Kilgore's "Closing the Loop", a very un-hackneyed time travel story, and the Ron Wilber illustrations to Kurt Hyatt's cute tale "The Darkworld Contract". Also of note is Bentley Little's "Garage Sale", which goes a long ways to explain the fascination of this suburban ritual. Any review is bound not to do justice to something this huge and diverse; if you're at all interested in short SF, invest in a copy.

ZYCIE/KOBIETA (\$1 from Denise Dee, 254A Oak, San Francisco, CA 94102): This is a one-shot collection of stories for Women's History Month (March), reminiscent of CLOSEST PENGUINS or LOBSTER TENDENCIES and a fine fix for those of us who miss those zines. It's entirely stories written by women, but I didn't even realize that until two-thirds of the way through because most of the writing is so powerful. Denise publishes most things without punctuation and only minimal paragraphing, which leaves the emotions rushing down the page at a breakneck pace and contribute to a feeling of knowing just what's going on in the author's head. Short, non-traditional, but very fine stories by Ann-Marie, Sue Mullery, Carol Schneck and Denise herself.

 THE LITTLEST UNICORN Vol. 3 #4 (\$7/yr from The Rowan Tree Church, PO Box 8814, Minneapolis, MN 55408): It's sort of frightening to think that a zine I saw born after FF was established is well into its third year. LU is paganism for young folk. It features stories, pictures, activities, and even some elementary herbalism. This is probably for the early school years of thereabouts. Think of it as a partial antidote for the other religious education getting snuck in on your kids by the schools and the television, and as a source of more human values than the official line.

LIVE FROM THE STAGGER CAPE #4 (\$1 or The Usual from Luke McGuff, PO Box 3680, Minneapolis, MN 55403): Luke is treading on thin ice here, trying to combine the cutting edge of science fiction with real world politics, but then Luke is that kind of guy. I see LFTSC as sort of an exercise in a directed kind of crosspollination, just as FACTSHEET FIVE is a promiscuously undirected experiment of the same sort. Politics, by the way, isn't just voting and laws; rape and repression and Big Macs all come in for scrutiny in this issue. Features fiction from John Shirley and Rudy Rucker too. What more can you ask for a buck?

LIVELY ARTS (\$1 & 44 cents postage from PO Box 4906, San Diego, CA 92104): This is the "Gallery Issue" featuring a mixed bag of photos and drawings. Some of the photos are of the musicians the LA staff pays a lot of attention to: Captain Sensible, Rat Scabies, and Dinah Cancer, for example. Artists include Jeff Gaither and Roger Mejia. "This issue is dedicated to Andy Warhol".

LIVING FREE #37 (\$1.50 from Jim Stumm, Box 29, Hiler Branch, Buffalo, NY 14223): Jim's main interest is in personal liberation, freeing yourself of society rather than trying to become free by making society free. There are various strategies for getting at this, but the basic idea is to lie low & be as self-sufficient as possible. This issue is especially interesting as it contains a 15-year-old reprint of some stuff written by Tom of Preform, explaining some of his basic ideas about vonu, a sort of back-to-the-land escape from Big Brother movement that never really took off. Or if it did take off, it was so wildly successful that no one knows about all the people who vanished today.

THE LLEWELLYN NEW TIMES #873 (\$1 from PO Box 64383, St. Paul, MN 55164-0383): "The Western Hemisphere's Oldest Publisher of Astrology and New Age Books" pumps out this bimonthly for two reasons: to advertise their books and to print short articles on various magickal subjects. In 80 pages, they've got room for plenty of both. Topics in this issue include "How to Astral Project", the Kwan Yin book of changes, and a special "women's Tarot" page. Many of the stories are little more than teasers for the books, but there is still knowledge to be gleamed here -- and plenty of addresses for other magickal products (want a Golden Dawn T-Shirt?).

LOOKOUT! #25 (\$1 from Lawrence Livermore, PO Box 1000, Laytonville, CA 95454): Anyone who thinks that the spirit of rebellion has completely died out in fashionable Mendocino County is advised to take a look at this one. Lawrence talks about some music (including the Bammies in an article called "Music Can Make You STUPID"), politics, the various things wrong with the country (like workfare), and generally presents a perspective that has evolved from the sixties to today as being anti-establishment. Also in this issue is another of his autobiographical sketches, detailing his experience with failing out of college. Good stuff.

LOSING FAITH #2 (\$1 from PO Box 10533, Minneapolis, MN 55440): A comic book with something to offend everyone, each page being drawn by a different deranged artist. Between the lot of them you get bondage, blow jobs, cancer, disrespect to religion, guns, sex, drugs and racism, for starters. The title makes sense; these guys have no faith in anything, and no respect either. From the infamous Artpolice crew.

LOWLIFE 10 (\$1.50 from Glen Thrasher, 1095 Blue Ridge Ave. #2, Atlanta, GA 30306): Who else reprints both THE

YOUNG AND THE FRUSTRATED and LITTLE FREE PRESS? No one, I think. LOWLIFE is getting rather impressive, with this issue concentrating on interviewing some of the underbelly of modern music and art: Psychodrama, Mofungo, and Nick Zedd all get their two cents' worth in. Lots of fanzine and music reviews, bizarre art, dirty pictures, a call to spraypaint on walls, and much more. Definitely a zine on the way up. And Glen is associated with WREK radio, which could be even better for bands that send him stuff to listen to.

LUNCH IS JUST LIFE #1 (50 cents & a stamp from TBS Publications, 2431 N. High St. #25, Columbus, OH 43202): "Tha Magazine of Food and Drink", this isn't GOURMET by any means, unless GOURMET has started printing wine cooler reviews. Actually, this is part of Randy's attempt to create zines for all the things he's interested in so he doesn't get bored publishing the same stuff over and over again. So besides the reviews there are stories on some real diners, Denise Dee writing about not eating, and a collage that makes a plate of jello look like a flying saucer.

LUNO (\$10/yr or \$1 for sample literature from Gene Lehman, 31960 SE Chin St., Boring, OR 97009): The Learning Unlimited Network of Oregon (which despite the name is quite national) continues to pump out Gene's thoughts, revolving around ideas on educating. Gene's main interests seem to be phonetics and building a network of those interested in alternative education, and he does a fine job of both. This issue features a strangely-rhyming bit of doggerel on Contragate, certainly a novelty.

MAGIC BULLET 3:2 (39 cent SASE from 169 W. Huntingdon St., Philadelphia, PA 19133): What can you say about a zine that mostly publishes surreal short stories with oddball drawings but then puts a review of a new Soviet Georgian film in the centerfold. (Maybe that there is no such film?) One thing to say is that Peter Cunningham's "Up a Lazy River", the diary of an explorer who would have Robert Scott spinning in his grave, is darned funny. Another thing to say is that with some of the stories here, the "to be continued" doesn't make them any less understandable. But the artwork is innovative and the good writing is worth waiting for.

MAGNET SCHOOL #1 (SASE from Lisa LaBia, PO Box 3222, Traffic Stn., Minneapolis, MN 55408): A new zine devoted to "sexography", which differs from erotica and pornography in that it involves "absolutely no writing about harlots, no getting off with a big orchid, no high heels in bed, no split beavers, and no masturbating while listening to that oh-so-tender Lionel Ritchie". What this leaves is sort of blunt personal writing, at least for the first issue, but Lisa is very interested in getting submissions for the next issue.

MAGPIE March 1987 (\$1 (?) from John Wilkerson, PO Box 127, Salem, OR 97308): Another free tabloid that won't be expecting national orders, but I don't see any reason that they'd be ignored. This "Entertainment, arts and recreation" mag covers mainly music, but things like prizefights and restaurant reviews also sneak in. The music is mainly in the pop-to-folk spectrum, and most of the things mentioned are of pretty local interest.

MANZINE #4 (SASE or 25 cents from Frank Function, PO Box 9915, Seattle, WA 98109): The slogan of this little baby is "Is it art, or is it just stupid?" Don't expect me to answer that for you. MANZINE is sort of a written analog of the minicomic, just a small look at some aspect of culture. This issue is devoted to junk mail, arguing for cheap third-class postage as a bulwark of the free society, and providing a handy album for collecting those funny transportation stamps with fractional denominations.

MARK LINDSAY: "SPREADING THE NEWS" (39 cents postage from Carolyn Wood, SE 81 Highland Dr., Shelton, WA 98584): This is a fanzine, pure and simple, in one of the original senses of the word. Mark spent years and years with Paul Revere and the Raiders, and then took a break from an active music career. Now he's touring again, and some loyal fans are trying to keep track of him. Lots of gushing prose, photos and a complete discography.

MEDIA SPOTLIGHT Vol. 7 #3 (Donation from PO Box 1288,

Costa Mesa, CA 92628): So the first thing I see in this "Biblical Analysis of Entertainment and the Media" is a list of cautions as to which kiddietoons have dangerous occult themes (Bugs Bunny is at the top of the list). Continuing on, the second was an article condemning the world instant of cooperation at the tail end of last year as an occultist plot. On the other hand, there's a well-researched long article on esoteric interpretations of Christianity which is interesting and informative although the editor is against them. Yes, most of the content is on media, and mainly deplores things.

MENSA

Despite what you may have heard, MENSA is not just an organization for pointy-headed intellectuals who like to sit around all day and do calculus problems. One part of MENSA is the Special Interest Groups (SIGs), and what makes these of interest to FF readers is that some of them put out their own zines, which can be purchased even by those not in the top 2% on IQ tests. Here's the ones I know about:

THE ATROCITY Vol. 9 #4 (50 cents & SASE from Hank Roll, 2419 Greensburg Pike, Pittsburgh, PA 15221): Newsletter of the Absurd SIG, dedicated to being absurd, or at least rude and crude. I thought the funniest thing here was the "Mensuary" calendar, marked with things to do like "Invent replacement for sex" and "Demonstrate the ineffable with examples". The "Business Procedures Test" is pretty funny if this is the first time you've seen it.

THE LOG CABIN #87 (\$1 from Louisa Poulin, HC-38, Box 1178, Winchester, VA 22601): There are some zines that I read as soon as they come in, rather than letting them pile up to be reviewed, and LC is high on that list. It's for people interested in "Back to the Land" (BTTL), the idea that one should seek to live simply & self-sufficiently. As such it has a predominately rural bent, but includes some stuff directed at urban BTTLers as well. LC is organized almost as an apa, with most of the contents being letters from members; some subjects in this issue include solar power, making fertilizer from weeds, preserving rare seeds, and keeping up the "rural spirit" in a city.

RESONANCE #6 (\$1.50 from Judy Wall, PO Box 64, Sumterville, FL 34267): This one comes to us from the Bioelectromagnetics SIG. They're interested in the effects of radiation on people, mostly. This time around a broadcaster discusses the radiant power levels around his antennas, a letter plugging Joe Newman's "Energy machine" (which supposedly generates more than it takes in), and a quick note on a bioelectromagnetic cure for drug addiction. Contents in past issues have ranged from hardcore establishment science to complete blue-sky theorizing.

META-SCOOP Vol. 4 #3/4 (\$10/yr from 1004 Live Oak #101, Arlington, TX 76012): Published six times yearly by FLAME, the Foundation of Light And Metaphysical Education. Though they publish various bits of esoteric Christianity, my absolute favorite in this issue is Barbara Sowell's list of rules for those seeking enlightenment. I can't resist quoting #3: "Never, never, never say 'I think' when you could just as easily substitute 'I sense'. Thinking indicates that you still have a functional left brain and that's just about as nasty as a nicotine habit."

THE MILITANT Vol. 51 #2 (\$3/12 weeks from 410 West St., New York, NY 10014): A weekly socialist tabloid. Being a socialist these days means mostly viewing with alarm current events, and they do that very well. The news coverage is well-done and often presents unpopular views. But the socialism is minimal, except for one "Learning about Socialism" column and the general implication that union workers would have it better in a different system.

MIND BLOWN #1 (50 cents from 3108 Ridgeway Ave., W. Palm Beach, FL 33405): Hey, these Floridian punks are into sports. Well, one sport, anyhow: skateboarding. This is a collection of skateboard photos on one large fold-out sheet, plus a couple of hardcore show shots.

MIND THEATRE #8 (\$2.50 from PO Box 1408, Stn. A, London, ONT, N6A 5M2, CANADA): Well, this "Here Come the Nineties!!!" issue is just a load of fun. As the editors point out, the overall atmosphere of this mainly comix zine is "gloomy", but then, that's the way we've been trained to think of the future. At least Lenn Rant's wonderful strips have a message of hope buried under all the pollution and repression. Some of the rest of this isn't so cheery. And some just has nothing to do with the future at all, like Chaz's single-page bits of life or Steve's strangely disturbing photography. There's a lot of energy in this one, and it's worth the money.

MINI EXAMINER Vol. 8 #24 (\$1 from Irene Hamlen Stephenson, PO Box 3893, Chatsworth, CA 91313-3893): Irene practices "biorhythm character analysis" to explain current events and news. Also little bits of other things creep in now and then; this issue has a plea for stronger animal protection laws in California. Check out the character analysis of Oral Roberts spiritual blackmail. My own suspicion is that this system, like astrology, depends on the creativity of the interpreter to make sense, but it can still be interesting to read.

MINNESOTA WOMEN'S PRESS Vol. 2 #17 (\$20/yr from 2395 University Ave. #215, St. Paul, MN 55114): "A Women's Place is in the News" proclaims the masthead, and they do their best to see that it's so. This is accomplished not through

strident separatist coverage but through straightforward stories about women, as well as news and notes on things like movies and toys, as seen from a woman's point of view. It's too bad that this point of view needs to be nurtured in a supporting atmosphere, but it's good that this atmosphere exists.

THE MONITOR #6 (\$15/yr from Democratic Renewal Education Fund, PO Box 10500, Atlanta, GA 30303): An outgrowth of what used to be the National Anti-Klan Network, MONITOR is now keeping tabs on the entire spectrum of right-wing hate groups. In addition to an in-depth article on the various marches in Forsyth County, Georgia this year, they also have a quick summary of the Constitutionalist movement (of which they are gravely suspicious) and a feature on the basic tenets of Identity. There are also a batch of quick news briefs of interest. Worth supporting, and tax-deductible, although they're casting their net a bit more widely than I would.

MONSTERS & MUTANTS #10 (\$1 from Jeff Gaither, 6799 Brooklawn Dr., Louisville, KY 40214): A minicomic printed on heavy stock, featuring works from Roden, Sloane, "Big Daddy" Roth, and more. Pretty gruesome stuff, suitable for framing and sending to your bill collectors as a gentle suggestion to bug off.

THE MONTHLY INDEPENDENT TRIBUNE TIMES JOURNAL POST GAZETTE NEWS CHRONICLE BULLETIN #51 (44 cents stamps or 50 cents CASH from T.S. Child, 2510 Bancroft Way #207, Berkeley, CA 94704): While you were napping these guys passed their 50th issue and celebrated their 400th page of funny stuff. Too bad you missed it. Well, this time they have the cast of Othello on the Newlywed Game. Too bad this issue is probably gone too. Look, get with it, send some stamps or money now, OK? I get tired of explaining to some of my readers what dopes they are.

MUTUAL FUND FORECASTER #24 (\$49/yr from 3471 N. Federal Hwy., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33306): A serious financial newsletter which predicts profits on the order of 40% for the year if you get into the right mutual funds when they tell you to. The heart of this is an extensive listing of funds with predicted profits. What they don't tell you is what sort of model led to those predictions. Well, brother, you must have faith.

MURDER CAN BE FUN #5 (50 cents from Johnny Marr, PO Box 640111, San Francisco, CA 94109): Johnny is fascinated by the sleazy side of our culture. This time the real story of Fatty Arbuckle's prosecution is the cover story. But the best feature here is the story on one of my fave authors, now undergoing a well-deserved revival even though he is quite dead: Jim Thompson. It's about time the media wised up and reprinted his stuff. Johnny also reviews True Detective

magazines and assorted unlikely books.

THE MYSTERY & ADVENTURE SERIES REVIEW #18 (\$2 from Fred Woodworth, PO Box 3488, Tucson, AZ 85722): Biff Brewster ring a bell? No? How about Ted Scott? The X-Bar-X? If not, forget it, go on to the next review. If you did recognize that stuff, then you know the genre we're talking about here -- the classic series, only a few of which (like Nancy Drew) are generally remembered. Lots of lit-crit stuff here, most of it readable even if you don't know the story, and ads that offer to sell copies. One guy is even giving up fifty books at a time for less than a buck apiece.

THE MYSTERY FANCIER Vol. 8 #6 (\$3 from Guy Townsend, 1711 Clifty Dr., Madison, IN 47250): As the title ought to suggest, this is for the hardcore mystery fan; the person who has read hundreds of them and is looking for new perspectives. Guy's writers obligingly supply comparative reviews, bibliographical notes on particular authors, Awful Quotes from published works, and so on. Of interest are Jeff Banks' article on Sam Spade transferred to the movie screen and Francis Nevins' retrospective on Cornell Woolrich. There's been some nasty feuding between TMF and another zine, but it seems to be residing, so appreciate this one for the genre.

MYSTERY READERS OF AMERICA JOURNAL (\$15/yr from Janet Rudolph, PO Box 8116, Berkeley, CA 94707-8116): This bimonthly journal of the MRA is heavily oriented towards articles revolving around particular themes. This time the theme is "murder in transit", and most of the pieces discuss one aspect or another of this: "Travel in British Detective Fiction" or "Railways and Detective Fiction" (although one person perversely insists on writing about cat mysteries). Unfortunately, some of these articles are thus reduced to little more than lists of books on the theme -- some more analytical content would be nice.

MYSTIC PRESS March 1987 (\$6/yr from PO Box 6186, Baltimore, MD 21231): A magical zine that publishes all sorts of oddball stuff. This time, one columnist confesses to being an alien trapped in human form, Elvis Presley pops in with an anti-drug message, and the Egyptian Book of the Dead gets some good press. An eclectic mix of traditions, with lots of classified ads.

NAP TIME Vol. 2 #1 (\$10/yr from National Association of Pantheists, PO Box 484, Groton, MA 01450): The NAP is having a tough time getting a tax exemption as a religious group, and the story of their hassles with the IRS would be funny if it weren't so scary. But they're forging ahead, expanding on their understanding of pantheist belief, publicizing the plight of other groups in bad situations, building an organization, and generally appear to be having a good time.

NATIONWIDE SHOPPER (\$1 from Dept. 570282, 144 1st St., PO Box 4507, Burbank, CA 91503): For those of you into mail-order shopping, these people advertise about 150 catalogs from other places, mostly priced around a buck. Wood-working, wide shoes, waterbed products, stained glass, and other obscure things predominate.

NEOLOGY Vol. 11 #6 (\$1 from ESFACAS, Box 4071 PSSE, Edmonton, Alta., T6E 4S8, CANADA): The Edmonton Science Fiction and Comic Art Society is one of the last bastions of the mimeographed sfzine. This issue features an Artist's Showcase section with quite a bit of sfnal work from the locals. But who decided to put the junk mail reviews before the fanzine reviews? And why are half of the comic reviews in red ink? Does it have anything to do with the treasurer's report? Nifty lettercol.

NEW FRONTIER Jan. 1987 (\$15/yr from 129 N. 13th St., Philadelphia, PA 19107): It's not often that you find a cop portrayed as a good guy in an alternative magazine, but that's the case with this issue of NF. It's actually a perfect example of the editorial policy of finding applications of New Age principles everywhere -- this is a cop who uses spiritual insights in his police work. Other articles include a report from the gent who channelled the Starseed Transmissions and of course Swami Beyondananda's column. Promiscuous Aquarianism on the loose.

NEW LIBERTARIAN Vol. 4 #17 (\$2.95 from 1515 W. MacArthur Blvd. #19, Costa Mesa, CA 92626): Probably the largest-circulation non-Party libertarian zine left (though even at that less people read NL than FF) and certainly the best, it's also my favorite, just because it gets so ridiculously opinionated. (Or, as the masthead states, "Everyone appearing in this publication DISAGREES!") Some of the regular features get bumped this time for a long and detailed tribute to recently-deceased Robert Lefevre, with lots of big names from the movement checking in. Good news for long-time fans: Sam seems to be running almost on schedule these days, with shorter issues of NEW LIBERTARIAN NOTES & CALENDAR (soon to be NL: THE NEWSLETTER) filling in the gaps.

THE NEW MUSIC INFORMER #6 (60 cents from Chris Murtland, 3514 Millhaven Rd., Winston-Salem, NC 27106): With this issue NMI adds a fanzine review section and continues its growth into more respectable pfanzinehood. The rest of the zine is reviews of new music, as you might have guessed, most running around a page and discussing a particular group or release in depth. No interviews of scene reports or anything like that. Groups this time include Love Tractor, The Chills, and The Scientists.

NEW PLAYS AND PLAYWRIGHTS (\$1 (?) from PO Box 14524, Chicago, IL 60614): This one is apparently free to "Chicago area theatre practitioners who have an interest in new plays and playwrights," and it is pretty much a straightforward news sheet, another example of the power of desktop publishing. Various groups and their grants get prominent places in the reporting, a Chicago playwright is profiled, and the editor offers some thoughts about where the stage in Chicago is headed.

NEWS & NOTES FROM ALL OVER Feb. 1987 (SASE from SET, PO Box 10491, Oakland, CA 94610-0491): There seems to be some peculiar fertilizer in the Bay Area that makes groups grow well. The Society for the Eradication of Television has grown so well that it's lost its meeting place. They print stories about the horrid effects of TV, publicize their ideas, and just plain tell people to say "No" to TV. Even Ted Turner proves to have had some harsh words to say about the medium.

NEWSLETTER OF THE AYN RAND INSTITUTE Vol. 1 #4 (13101 Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90066): "Complimentary to all contributors to the Ayn Rand Institute" -- what? An Objectivist asking for donations instead of offering a contract? Their main project is to make Objectivism respectable at the high school & college level. Somehow, this reads very much like the work of an obscure religious sect revering St. Ayn.

NEWSWATCH Vol. 2 #2 (\$29/yr from 1001 Prince St., Alexandria, VA 22314): This is published by the Media Research Center, "a project of the National Conservative Foundation", and is devoted to exposing the bias in today's news coverage -- apparently limited to bias on the part of liberals who misrepresent Reagan's good intentions and Gorbachev's bad ones. Can you say "disinformation"? I knew you could.

THE NEW TIMES Vol. 2 #8 (\$7.50/yr from PO Box 51186, Seattle, WA 98115): A New Age tabloid that is about equal parts advertising and articles. News coverage is on such matters as the world instant of cooperation, using astrology to stay healthy, and empowering oneself (apparently the current buzzphrase). I must confess to having a deep-seated suspicion of anyone that spells "holistic" with a "W" on the front, though.

NEW UNIONIST #119 (30 cents from 621 W. Lake St. #210, Minneapolis, MN 55408): Only four tabloid pages, but it comes out monthly like clockwork. The New Union Party presents a sort of socialism based on one single workers' union as the key to a better future. Where they excel is in simple, direct criticism of current affairs; recently SDI has come in for a lot of flack. The editorial cartoons are pretty good too.

NFD JOURNAL Jan. 1987 (\$15/yr from PO Drawer 2440,

Tupelo, MS 38803): The National Federation for Decency is without a doubt one of the sleaziest groups I'll list in this issue. Their sole purpose is to get banned any book, movie or TV show that talks about sex, religion or abortion without going along with their prejudices (in the case of sex, this means talking about it at all). One amusing note: they've picked up a tactic from the left. Every issue they publish the 800 number of some major corporation that advertises in PLAYBOY or PENTHOUSE and urge their readers to make lots of complaining phone calls. I knew this 800 club stuff would backfire.

THE NIGHTMARE EXPRESS #3 (\$1.50 from Donald L. Miller, 262 Sherburne #2, St. Paul, MN 55103): A relatively new zine for the aspiring writer of horror fiction. Of particular interest here is Annette Crouch's "The Write Track" column, in which a manuscript from a new author is reprinted and criticized in some detail. There are also notes on writing from established authors and a small listing of markets. A nice effort.

NO FRAMES NO BOUNDARIES #4 (50 cents from Antigone, PO Box 8052, Woodland, CA 95695-8052): A pfanzine that is back for an anniversary issue after a long hiatus in publishing. Nothing really spectacular here, except maybe for the "Jesus is this guy, y'know" soliloquy. New Zealand scene report, interview with Screaming Liberals, and some stuff on both punk & popular cultures.

THE NOISE #59 (\$8/yr from 74 Jamaica St., Jamaica Plain, Boston, MA 02130): Boston's best local rock magazine, without a doubt. Lots of nifty photos, all the essential gossip, articles on the bands that count, and snide reviews of the videos (although with the vid program off the air, that may change). T. Max has stuck it out for the long haul and it looks as if his work may be paying off. And Throwing Muses coverage in 3 out of every 5 issues is an added bonus.

NOMADIC UNDERGROUND #4 (\$1 (?) from Brad Sigal, PO Box 72003, Marietta, GA 30007): This pfanzine leads off with an extensive Henry Rollins interview, for those who didn't get enough of his last publicity blitz. Later on there's an MDC interview, and scattered about is news on Amnesty International, vegetarianism, the Contras and other such respectable topics. A good mix of the music and the underlying messages.

NOMOS Jan./Feb. 1987 (\$3 from 9857 S. Damen Ave., Chicago, IL 60643): Though this libertarian zine remains impressive, a small subscription list and the departure of co-editors Joe and Diane Bast leave its future in doubt. This issue leads off with a hard-hitting anti-drug-hysteria article by pharmacologist/biochemist Robert Goodman, and the continuing debate on libertarian strategy is also interesting. I hope NOMOS lasts, but its lack of a firm subscriber base after 4 years of publication goes to show what lousy shape the Movement is in.

NORTHERN SUN NEWS Vol. 10 #2 (\$10/yr from 1519 E. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55404): Well, did you hear about the Air Force spraying protestors down with firehoses on a subzero day? ("It's better than being shot," they said). Or about the four workers killed in a non-nuclear accident at a nuke plant in Virginia? Well, if you'd subscribed to NSN you'd know all the details by now. Also good stuff on protesting nuclear testing in Nevada, viewing AMERIKA, and more. Social activism that doesn't get strident.

NOT BORED (\$1 (?) from Bill Brown, English Grad Office, 302 Clemens Hall, SUNYAB, NY, 14260): A Situationist zine, or at least in their tradition. Opens with a discussion of the graffiti situation on campus, segues into a cut-up text on Vampires, and proceeds into various critiques of the contemporary media. All of this is intercut with nice collages and other artistic what-not. Plenty of big words and critiques of other attempts to explain or dismiss the Sits. Not all that accessible to the average reader, but then, it doesn't want to be.

THE NOTE Feb. 1987 (\$9.97/yr from PO Box 781214, Wichita, KS 67278-1214): A fairly small music news tabloid. The local scene seems to be covered pretty well, although there apparently isn't too much going on in Wichita. Local radio and

recording studios get a few words. Overall, this one seems to be a bit heavy on ads and low on content.

NOTES 6 (The Usual from Sam Helm, 495 W. 186th St. #5-E, New York, NY 10033): Well, there's good news and bad news in this issue. The bad news is that Andrea Chalfin-Antonoff has stopped writing a column and Anni Ackner's column missed an issue. The good news is that Jeff Grimshaw's article on Hooterization -- a computerized process to be applied to old movies that were not filmed topless due to the morals of the times -- is the funniest thing I've seen in a sfanzine in a long time. Sam also publishes one of the best lettercols around, and Ginnie Fleming is no slouch at fanzine reviewing either. Not for the SFans alone.

NOVOID 5 (\$2 [US funds outside of Canada] from Colin Hinz, 1118 College Dr., Saskatoon, SASK S7N 0W2, CANADA): The color mimeographed sfanzine lives, and Colin is doing a good job of producing it. This issue seems to be a bit topheavy on fanzine and comic reviews (I should talk?), but there are other things: Kathleen Moore-Freeman debates the cause of grammatical simplification, Don D'Amassa contributes the Trufan Evaluation Form, and John Berry waltzes off to Lesbos for a vacation. Impeccably produced, and the next issue might be a few months, so buy this one now.

NOXIOUS COMIX #7 (35 cents from Thaddaeus Tekell, 600 Whispering Hills Dr. #01, Knoxville, TN 37211): Despite the name, this is only about 50% comics, the rest being more standard pfanzine fare like a JFA interview and some record reviews. The comix tend to be more socially conscious than professionally drawn, but there are some neat hardcore duck T-shirts available for \$8.

NUKEWATCH NEWSLETTER Dec. 1986 (SASE (?) from 315 W. Gorham St., Madison, WI 53703): Want to follow warheads around on the public highways? Get in the way of trains carrying the same cargo? Demonstrate at lonely missile silos in the Dakotas? Then NN is the place for you to go. This single-sheet newsletter covers recent activities in the field of harassing the nuke transporters and manufacturers and gives addresses for various grassroots groups involved. Details this time on how to Adopt-a-Missile.

THE NUMISMATIST Jan. 1985 (\$2 from American Numismatic Association, 818 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903): This is a couple of years old, but organizations big enough to publish 225-page digests don't move around too much. It wouldn't hurt to write before sending money, though. As one would expect, this professionally-done magazine is full of articles about various rare or unlikely coins, and topped off with a lot of ads from people who want to sell them to you.

THE OFFENSE NEWSLETTER #72 (\$1 (?) from PO Box 12614, Columbus, OH 43212): Well, I dunno about "Offense", but Tim is always ready to blow some poor slob's new record release off in one sneering sentence, so I guess it fits. Besides the stream of consciousness reviews (and don't worry, Tim, FF doesn't make it into the Homestead press kits either), there are a couple of live show reviews and a good selection of flak-filled letters. Definitely a different perspective on music, wide-ranging but 500% less syncophantic than most other reviewers (including myself).

OFF-THE-CUFF... #83 (\$1 from Northpoint Teams, PO Box 129, Topton, NC 28781): The basic thesis here is that "we are now heading into a dangerous deflationary business cycle deliberately created for us as was the 1929-1936 economic catastrophe". The author gives apocalyptic advice ("relocate out of the larger cities, and off the coastal lands below 500' elevation") mixed in with somewhat bizarre conspiracy theories involving a cast of bankers, Constitutionalsists, CIA agents, and other hooligans. Just as frosting on the cake there is an overlay of conservative Calvinist theology. A wonderful 24 pages for only a buck.

OHH...CHRIST #1 (SASE from PO Box 223803, Dallas, TX 75222): Published by the First United Church of Kitsch, these two tiny pages are mainly an ad for Healing Faith and lead singer Joe Christ. No big deal, the price is decent for that (in fact, the cover even says "FREE" if you want to hassle

him for a copy).

OIKOS #6 (\$1.35 from Arne Jorgensen, 55 Magnolia Ave., Denville, NJ 07834): "A Journal of Ecology and Community". In this issue there's a third theme, as the two major articles both discuss Central America. Robert Williams provides a penetrating analysis of the ecological and social damage done by the US policy of encouraging export agriculture in the region, while Sesshu Foster speaks of experiences planting trees in a Nicaraguan reforestation project. A nice job of pointing out the connections between the ecological, the political, and the personal.

OK GO NOW #1 (\$1 from Evelyn McDonnell, PO Box 3007, Providence, RI 02906): One of the few contacts I have in the only state too small to land a 747 in. This new pzfanzine leads off with impressive articles on FIREHOSE, Neutral Nation, Live Skull and Mofungo, as well as a "desktop publishing" look that is definitely not in line with the "Go ahead, paste in the roaches" ethos of most punk zines. The combination of thoughtful coverage and nice looks can work, and in this case I think it probably will.

ONAN-ANON (25 cents & SASE from Von K. Lechner, 115 Coolidge Ave., Collingswood, NJ 08108): A small pamphlet that has the look of a Bible tract, though printed on somewhat heavier paper than most of those. Inside, though, one finds a paean to masturbation and an offer to teach & counsel, which isn't what most tract readers expect. The possibilities are endless. Von also has other collage art, and it wouldn't surprise me if a buck would bring you a good assortment.

THE OPENER (\$95/yr (?) from Dr. Regis A. Barbier, Rua Democrito de Souza Filho, 235, Madalena, Recife, Pernambuco 50.000, BRAZZIL): OK, I don't know what this costs, what it's about, or why it exists, but I'll try. The price I list is from the first 50-page issue; this one is only 6 pages so a few bucks or a few IRCs might score you an issue. The contents are incoherent ravings that seem to revolve around some apocalyptic conception of the future inspired by Project Freenetwork. The reason...well, I still don't know. Prime KOOKS stuff for all of you fascinated by the snapping of the human mind.

OPENERS Winter 1987 (from Public Information Office, ALA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611): This is the tabloid of the American Library Association and the masthead says to write for subscription information. It's all about how great books and librarians are. The only reason I'm mentioning it is to point out that Jim Thompson has achieved academic respectability and a front-page writeup here, thanks to the Black Lizard reissues of his books. He's probably spinning in his grave.

OPENING UP NEWS Vol. 1 #5 (\$2/yr from 3819 SE Belmont, Portland, OR 97214): A small tabloid from the Center for the Healing Arts. They give lots of courses on things like "Clairvoyant Training", "Introduction to Metaphysics" and "Prosperity Possibility Training", whatever that is. They're non-profit, but I can't tell from the newsletter whether this means that the courses are free or not.

OPTION M2 (\$2.50 from PO Box 491034, Los Angeles, CA 90049): 106 pages of all the music you can possibly imagine. The heart of OPTION is always the attempt to review all of the independent music under the sun, but the articles are sometimes interesting as well (though often about subjects so obscure that I just turn the page). In this issue the Frank Zappa interview continues, Roger Miller sneaks up on a piano, Salem 66 hit the road, and Sun Ra tries to explain himself. If you really want to find out about alternative music, you're wasting your time with my reviews -- subscribe to OPTION instead. What you're looking for is in there -- someplace.

OUTER SHELL #18 (SASE from Roy Harper, PO Box 7053, St. Petersburg, FL 33734): A single-sheet pzfanzine that has a fondness for the oyster. This issue is mainly concerned, though, with the club scene across the country. Roy and a friend interview one club owner, and a couple of columns review various nightspots and just plain dives.

PAGAN PARENTS' LEAGUE NEWSLETTER #10/11 (SASE from Belinda, PO Box 423-P, Bay Shore, NY 11706): A looseknit organization for people who are trying to raise kids in a non-pagan world, PPL is sort of a circle without a center. Belinda puts out the Newsletter & coordinates things, but the bulk of it is written by members sending in their thoughts, questions, and ideas. At the moment questions seem to be running a bit ahead of answers, so if any of you have child-raising success stories to tell, it might be a good time to get in touch.

THE PAN-AMERICAN INDIAN ASSOCIATION NEWS #19 (\$1 from PO Box 244, Nocatee, FL 33864): This one has grown substantially in the few quarters that I've been getting it, and I'm impressed. It's a medium-sized tabloid, written by members of the PAIA. I guess the best way to characterize it would be as a support group -- this is not a vehicle for muckraking investigations, or a course on shamanism for the wider culture, but a bunch of people trying to understand their heritage. Lots of thoughtful letters and columns from various activist native Americans.

THE PATH Vol. 1 #3 (\$20/yr from Carl Herron, PO Box 486, New Hyde Park, NY 11040): Carl is a long-time fashion photographer who one day apparently had a revelation (I'm basing this on the introductory material for "The Path" which he kindly sent me). Now he's trying to share his thoughts with others. Short for The Path of Roodmas, the PATH is a zine explaining the cryptic passages from THE BOOK OF THE ROCK, which is not yet written. Anyhow, he's currently serializing the Ritual of the Rock, which is apparently the key to everything. It's hard to evaluate because the serial isn't over yet, but so far we seem to have a mix of many different esoteric and modern traditions.

THE PATRIOT REVIEW Dec. 1986 (\$20/yr from PO Box 314, Clackamas, OR 97015): A Constitutionalist publication that focuses almost exclusively on the Federal Reserve and the monetary system. With this issue they announce the formation of a "warehouse bank", a place you can keep an account and be assured that it is being held in gold or silver. There's also various bits of legal information about tax cases currently being litigated.

PC NEWSLETTER 16 (\$5/yr from Pollution Control, 1725 E. 115th St., Cleveland, OH 44106): PC is developing into a strong industry group for "little radio" AND serves as a distributor of indie music to over 30 small radio stations (record companies, check it out!). Articles stick to core topics like H-1 visas for foreign bands, home taping, and running a small radio station. Includes reviews, but only of the records that PC distributes.

PEACELINK #46 (NZ \$39/yr airmail or NZ \$24/yr surface from PO Box 2828, Christchurch, NEW ZEALAND): A zine which seeks to make explicit the various points of view in the New Zealand (or Aotearoa, as they prefer to call the country) peace movement. This special issue is centered around an explanation and exploration of liberation theology. Other articles discuss the US Information Service (I was appalled to find that we have a propaganda staff in an alleged ally) and New Zealand's UN voting record on disarmament. Extensive Pacific basin news that I don't know of any other source for as well.

PEPTALK Spring 1987 (50 cents (?) from PEP, PO Box 3912, Eugene, OR 97403): The quarterly newsletter of Polyfidelitous Educational Productions, a group promoting a particular form of plural marriage. This issue announces their summer conference (July 24-26, if you're interested). Articles discuss the problems and joys of living in a plural household, and PEP acts as sort of a clearinghouse for those interested in forming or discussing households using this lifestyle.

THE PERSONAL CONSULTANT Vol. 1 #1 (\$12/yr from Source Cassettes, Inc., PO Box W, Stanford, CA 94305): A small New Age zine that apparently exists to promote the "software for the mind" ideas of Dr. Emmett Miller. He sells a lot of tapes dealing with stress management, positive thinking, guided imagery, thinking good thoughts to cure cancer, and so on. The last I heard the jury was still out on most of this stuff, which hasn't slowed the sales down any.

PERSUASION AT WORK Vol. 9 #11 (\$1.50 from The Rockford

Institute, 943 N. Main St., Rockford, IL 61103): Dedicated supporters of "democratic capitalism", the Rockford folks report in an academic style on whatever they see threatening or encouraging this principle. This time the whole 8-page issue is one essay by Allan Carlson, "Privatizing the Family", which traces political thought on the family from Aristotle on and argues that the state should get the heck out of the family business, by providing tax incentives to those with children instead of support programs.

PHALLOS Feb. 1987 (\$5/yr from 583 Grove St., San Francisco, CA 94102): Rev. Donald Johnson and his congregation appear to be bouncing back from their recent hassling by the "authorities", and the St. Priapus Church, a homosexual phallic-worshipping group, is going strong in SF and branching out nationwide. PHALLOS details church programs, prints pictures of phallic art, and acts as a contact point for gay men looking to engage in some worship together. They tie all this in to the original, suppressed, Christianity.

PHOEBE Winter 1987 (\$1 from James MacDougall, 1162 Rts. 5 & 20, Waterloo, NY 13165): Small bites of humor and eccentricity, sort of like Chicken McNuggets. This is the Year In Review issue, and it's probably completely out of print, as the next issue should be out any day now. Look, it's worth sending a buck to check this out. Collected madnasses from the news media, plus blunt opinions on what foolish things the media and the world are up to.

PHOSPHORUS FLOURISH 19 (75 cents from John Rininger, Box 2479 Stn. A, Champaign, IL 61820): A zine of mail art of one stripe or another, mainly collaged. I must admit I don't always see the point of collages, but I take it in most cases that the artists are expressing discontent with the images and the world that creates them. (Well, it sounds good, anyhow). Of more interest to many FF readers will be the few pages at the end, with pictures of a few bombs and quotes from a bomb disposal guide of one sort or another.

PHOTO STATIC #23 (\$1 from 330 S. Linn St. #7, Iowa City, IA 52240): A "bimonthly not-for-profit periodical of xerographic art." One thing that distinguishes this from some other experimental art pubs is that each issue has a theme -- this time around it's "disinformation". (I was tempted to put this in a box with NEWSWATCH). Not everything addresses the theme, but the collages that do bring in multiple bits of advertising, politics, religion and other organs of propaganda. Not as perplexing as one might think. Includes a review section covering other magazines of a like ilk.

PIEDMONT BLUESLETTER March 1987 (\$7/yr from PBPS, PO Box 5571, Greensboro, NC 27403): That stands for Piedmont Blues Preservation Society, "dedicated to the preservation and presentation of the Black American Blues tradition". Besides publishing, they sponsor live shows, festivals, and workshops. Featured in this issue are Dr. Isiah Ross and a rundown of other local blues societies. Apparently there are quite a few of them.

THE PIG PAPER #29 (Send stamps to 70 Cotton Dr., Mississauga, ONT L5G 1Z9, CANADA): Gary "Pig" Gold has been publishing this single-sheet pzfanzine for a few years. Since he's also in a Beach Boys cover band, it's sort of fitting that this issue is dedicated to memorializing Brian Wilson. This is not some sappy fan-club remembrance but rather a collage of all sorts of reduced-print goodies: arrest reports, concert reports, plugs for the maharishi, beach movie stuff, and an overlay of surfing terms defined.

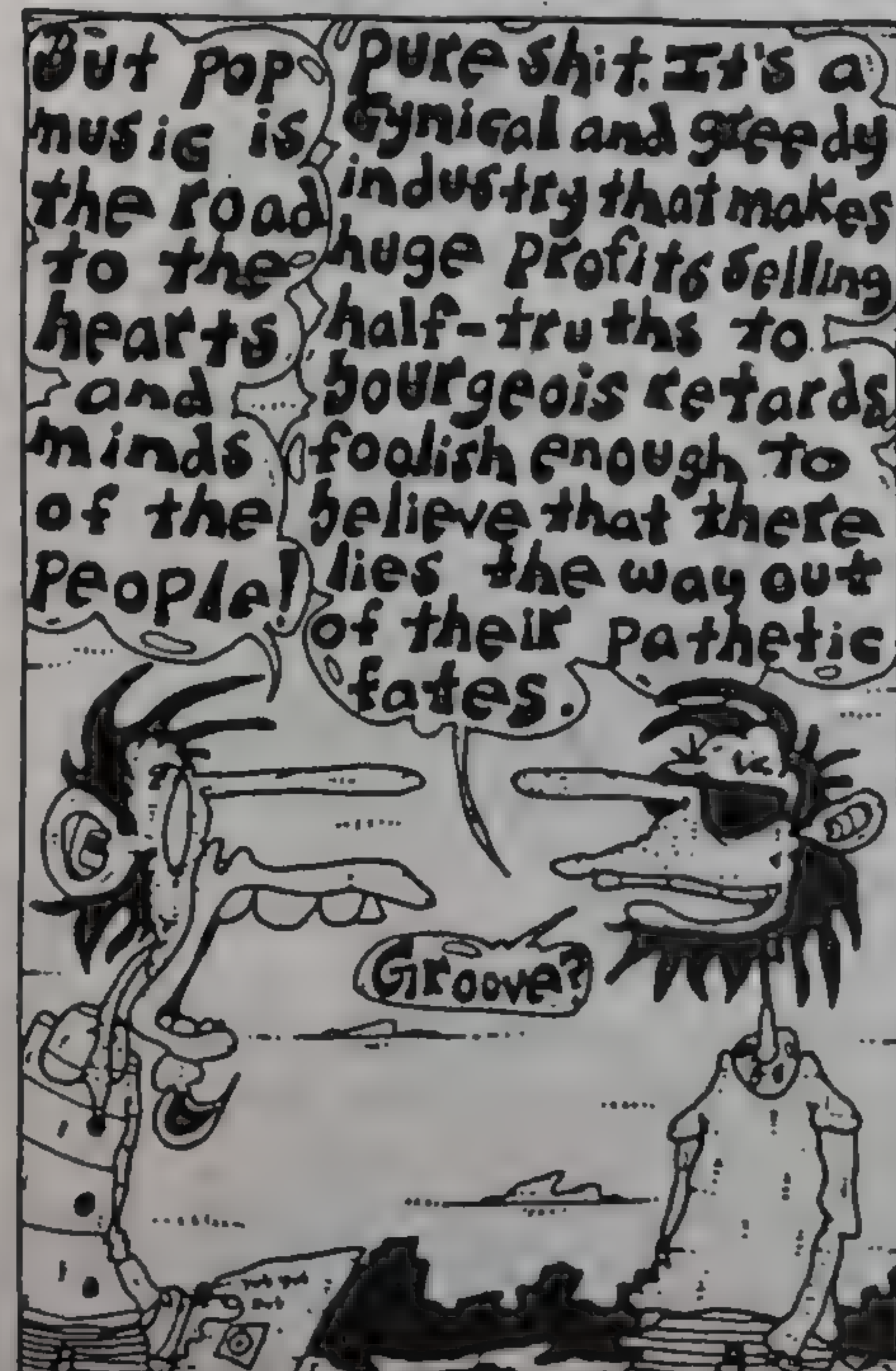
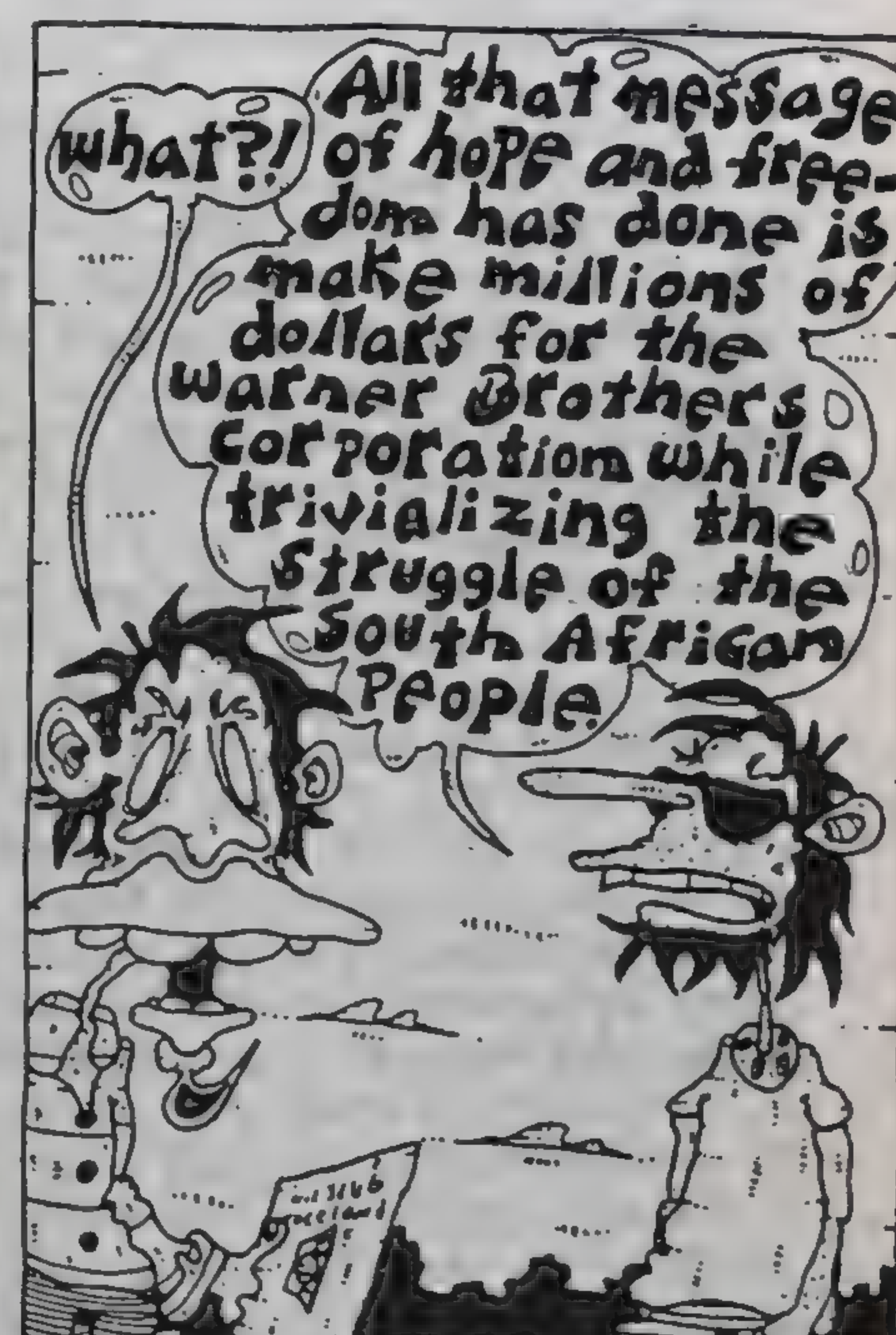
A POCKET GUIDE TO DEATH (\$1 & 39 cents postage from New Feet, PO Box 459, Trinidad, CA 95570; Age statement requested): A 16-page minicomic on card stock. It's a cheerful little guide to the nine basic Death Groups, illustrated by Jeff Gaither and John Dooley. A bit pricey as minicomics go, but the production is better than most.

POISONED PENN'S #2 (50 cents (?) from Debbi Shane, PO Box 184, Allston, MA 02134): I was going to say this seemed derivative of CONFLICT but on reflection all that means is that Debbi doesn't like the current big groups and says nasty things about them. Besides cutting down such faves as

Throwing Muses and FIREHOSE, she interviews Peach of Immortality and Marty Nation, plugs Jack Stevenson's PANDEMONIUM project, and gets involved with the "Cinema of Transgression", the genre of films starring folks like Nation or Lung Leg apparently doing rude and crude things (I haven't seen any, and won't unless the moviemakers get rich and start sending out review copies). Definitely headed in a different direction than the average pzfanzine.

POPULAR REALITY #17 (\$2/yr from PO Box 3402, Ann Arbor, MI 48106): David Crowbar is still stirring the pot that feeds him, leading off this issue with an antisemitic Revisionist editorial by Michael Hoffman II. But there's a lot of good stuff further on, notably Bob Black's psychic predictions for 1987 (I have to say that; I'm mentioned in them), and letters from any number of psychotic readers. Blaster Al Ackerman gets his 22 cents worth in, and the SURREAL ESTATES interview with TENTATIVELY, a CONVENIENCE is reprinted. PR is a great place to go to find the marginals, although you may well recoil in horror when you do.

POSITIVE OUTLOOK #2 (SASE from Brett Anderson, Rt. 24 RD 2, Mendham, NJ 07945): A small pzfanzine from the continuing hardcore scene in New Jersey. Brett essentially does everything the big zines do, but on a smaller scale: mini-interview with the Underachievers, short record and show reviews, small art clippings. What do you expect in something that fits in a small envelope?



POSSIBILITY POST #1 (\$1 from Lee Glickstein, 116 Coleridge St., San Francisco, CA 94110): This is sort of a spinoff of the late IDEALOG and the still-running LETTER EXCHANGE. Lee runs brainstorming sessions in person, and now he's trying to run one by mail, starting with questions gathered by putting an ad in LEX. Questioners are encouraged to use LEX to get the questions to a wider audience, and to generate brainstorms for others. Lee's committed to at least six issues of PP, and by the end of that time it may have gathered considerable momentum.

POSTCARD COLLECTOR 1987 CALENDAR (\$3 from Krause Publications, 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990): Better late than never. This year the PC folks have issued a dozen reproductions of collectors'-vintage train postcards as their 1987 calendar. Nice work, and certainly different from all the Garfield & Smurf stuff you'll find at B. Dalton's. Of course, their main reason in printing this is to publicize POSTCARD COLLECTOR magazine, \$14.95/yr or you can get a free sample by mentioning FACTSHEET FIVE. (Subscribing gets you the calendar for free). The magazine is, as one might expect, full of pretty pictures and lots of ads.

POSTCARDS (24 for \$4 from Steve Fiorilla, 1105 Lexington St., Bldg. 10 #5, Waltham, MA 02154): What, am I gonna have to start a postcard review column now? Steve's set includes equal numbers of 4 cards: one with apples & razor blades for Halloween, one covered with grumpy faces, one for an X-Mas music bash at the north pole, and a fourth with Ed Gein. Rude, crude, disgusting and printed in bright & cheerful colors.

POULTRY Second Series #1 (\$2 from PO Box 4413, Springfield, MA 01101): "A magazine of voice", but perhaps what they really mean is "voices", as this is a collection of literary parodies. This is probably funnier to those who know the current literary darlings. I did enjoy "Lawrence Ferlinghetti Uses Lots of Big Words In What Is Basically A Fairly Small Poem", by Carol Poster.

THE PRAGMATIST Vol. 4 #5 (\$10/yr from PO Box 392, Forest Grove, PA 18922): An attempt to take a utilitarian approach to promoting libertarianism. Someday I wish they would examine the basis and problems of utilitarianism itself, but meanwhile they discuss things like seat belts and credit card interest, showing how the market can promote better solutions than the government. My major complaint is perhaps that this is such a reactive forum; solutions to the problems of the day, rather than innovative new things to try, are the rule here. But some of the solutions make a good deal of sense.

PRIMAL SCREAM #1 (50 cents (?) from 1125 Fox Hill, Longmont, CO 80501): The cover says "Free" but you ought to pay for the postage. From the group that previously published PIGS IN A BLANKET, PS is an attack of frustration on much of existing society. Anarchy and vegetarianism come in for endorsement; invading Nicaragua and fighting at hardcore shows are frowned on. Although obviously a product of the punk culture, this zine focuses on politics and life rather than music. Besides the various opinion pieces there are also scattered bits of poetry and art.

PRIVATE LIVES #27 (\$4 from P.H.E. Inc., PO Box 1550, Madison Sq. Stn., New York, NY 10159): This one claims to be "the newsletter for the sexually adventurous", but at least the first five pages are more like PENTHOUSE LETTERS -- I'm not positive they're fantasies, but they are at least embellished stories. (For instance, I'm pretty sure the legal brothels in Nevada are dealing explicitly with birth and disease control these days instead of getting right into things). There are also film and gadget reviews, and a run-down of the sodomy statutes in various states now that the Supreme Court has ruled on their legality.

PSYCHIC PRESS Sept. 1986 (\$2 from PO Box 1556, Franklin, NC 28734): Astrological forecasts, New Age ads and an interview with a psychic start this one off. After that there's not a whole lot to keep it going, except for a page on crystal gazing. For the price, this one is far too small (12 pp. digest).

PUNCTURE #13 (\$2.25 from 1675 Filbert St. #3, San Francisco, CA 94123): A pfnzine that is entering the first rank, or perhaps it's already there. Eschewing the usual interview mode of reporting (even the interviews are more likely to ask "Do you think that women artists find this connectedness easier to tune in to?" than "Hey, want a beer?"), PUNCTURE tries to get across the essential feel of the bands they cover. This may mean searching questions, as with THROWING MUSES, a tour diary, as with CAMPER VAN BEETHOVEN, or just straight reportage, as with FLYING NUN. Also lots of beautiful photos, record and show and book reviews, and some editorial odds and ends. A thinking pfnzine.

PWA COALITION NEWSLINE #19 (\$20/yr from 263A W. 19th St. #125, New York, NY 10011): Free to People With AIDS or ARC. A few weeks ago the local paper trumpeted a big story on how folks with AIDS are going underground to get unapproved drugs for their treatment and I thought "I already knew that" -- thanks in large part to this zine. Besides keeping in touch with the latest medical research and rumors, the PWAC also acts as a support group, and their newsletter contains plenty of community information. Their approach is to concentrate on the people rather than the disease, exploring ways to cope if you or one you love is diagnosed as having AIDS or ARC.

QUIMBY QUARTERLY Winter 1987 (\$2 from Quimby Archives, PO Box 281, Astor Stn., Boston, MA 02123): At last, a zine starting with 'Q'! QQ is "for the arts", mainly the visual arts, although there are a number of short and funny stories included, sketches of life in a surreal Boston. The other arts include drawing, painting, photography and fashion design, not to mention comix. Some small fraction (like the fashions) strike me as pretentious, but the magazine is playful more often than not. Included as a stuffer in my copy was DEAD ARCHIVES, a collection of punk photography by Rudy Felt, and carrying its own 50 cent cover price if you're just interested in the likes of Exene and Lux Interior.

RADIO WORLD Vol. 11 #3 (\$2 from Industrial Marketing Advisory Services, 5827 Columbia Pike #310, Falls Church, VA 22041): This is an industry paper with free subscriptions available to "professional broadcasters," which I think includes at least a few of you readers. Lots of ads for fancy electronics, ideas on how to get and keep an audience and manage a station, and endless stuff on the antics of the FCC.

RAGTIME #5 (\$5/yr from Charles Clark, PO Box 15674, Minneapolis, MN 55415): This pfnzine is devoted to Christian rock but, as Charles says, "I am not an evangelist. Those who are should preach. I do not. If you want to know more, write me." What he does instead is review music, movies, and books, not all Christian but applying his views to them. And he doesn't believe in backmasking either.

RANDOM WRITINGS #11 (\$1 cash or \$2 check/MO from Jim Stumm, Box 29, Hiler Branch, Buffalo, NY 14223): Published whenever Jim accumulates 5 pages he thinks people might be interested in. As Jim is sort of a libertarian, you ought to be able to guess at the contents. In this issue he continues an argument with Fred Foldvary on whether national defense via voluntary donations would work, reprints an essay on why people are not Vulcans (and hence Randoids are mistaken), and prints some comments he originally made in THE CONNECTION (see above). Jim's a good writer, once you get used to the abbreviations he uses to get the most into these 5 reduced-print pages.

RATBEAT Sample (2 IRCs for the real thing from PO Box 361, 00121 Helsinki, FINLAND): From the editor of RUMBA comes this new international tabloid with the audacious plan of becoming as major trade paper for the underground rock industry, loosely defined. This sample is mostly ad rates and the like, but for the future they're planning extensive networking and claim they'll review everything they're sent. They're committed to printing at least three issues so I would advise you to get in touch and watch them grow. Miettinen's other projects (RUMBA, SISUBEAT) have been pretty impressive, and I have a hunch this one will be too.

RAUNCH-O-RAMA INFORMATION SHEET #13 (25 cents from Brad Goins, PO Box 2432, Stn. A, Champaign, IL 61820): A

newsletter for fans of some specialized genres of music, which Brad calls "Abrasive Music Theatre" and "Abrasive Cabaret". This gets him reviewing all sorts of strange experimental and industrial stuff: Nina Hagen, Wondeur Brass, Amor Fati. This issue contains an appreciation of the art of R.K. Sloane and the announcement of a new R.O.R. mail art contest -- write for details.

RAW POGO ON THE SCAFFOLD #6 (50 cents & a stamp from 1306 Eastman Ave., Bethlehem, PA 18018): A hardcore pfanzone based in the Lehigh Valley of Pennsylvania. This issue: interview with Russian Meatsquats and Virulence, live show reports, and a few record reviews. Marred by spotty printing.

THE REALIST #103 (\$2 from Paul Krassner, PO Box 1230, Venice, CA 90294): Yes there are still people out there who make fun of vitally important things like the War on Drugs, condom ads, and such. Paul Krassner is one of them. THE REALIST is a staggeringly funny zine that took a vacation but is now back in spades, mocking the current administration and Lyndon LaRouche alike. The major coverage this time is a report of the recent Western Humor and Irony Membership (WHIM) convention. A lot of people apparently take their humor quite seriously, but this zine doesn't make that mistake.

REALITY HACKERS NEWSLETTER #1 (\$30/yr from High Frontiers, PO Box 40271, Berkeley, CA 94704): Yet another zine from the HIGH FRONTIERS folks, featuring more outright optimism about the liberatory possibilities of high tech and drugs and meditation. They talk about hacking the human biocomputer, about tapping into the global information grid, about turning on kundalini energy, about brain states and chemicals. Typical is the page from Durk Pearson & Sandy Shaw, claiming to have a new intelligence increase drug and saying about cocaine withdrawal, "Simple! Give the people a good tryptophan supplement!". Notably absent from all of this optimistic technobabble are technical references of any sort.

REAR GARDE #14 (\$1 from CRSG Radio Sir George, 1455 de Maisonneuve #647, Montreal, Quebec, H3G 1M8, CANADA): "Montreal's Music Magazine" is what this tabloid calls itself. It reminds me of THE BOB, if that helps you picture it. Local bands, garage bands, and big name bands (Verbal Assault, SNFU) rub shoulders with various bits of station-oriented stuff (DJ top five lists, programming schedule). Well done, with a pile of record reviews and a checklist of upcoming concerts for the area.

THE RECORD FINDER Vol. 2 #47 (\$1 from PO Box 1047, Glen Allen, VA 23060): This is a tabloid that is almost entirely devoted to record auctions, with just a few notes of historical interest on early records. Most of the stuff for sale seems to be 78 RPM, and there are about 20 pages of fine-print listings here. One of the nice things about auctions is that you don't have to worry about arbitrary overpricing, only about your own knowledge of the market.

THE RED PLANET (SASE (?) from PO Box 8021, Minneapolis, MN 55408): A broadside of left-wing agitprop, printed on nice heavy stock to last and last. Pokes fun at Raygun, North, Meese and the rest of that ilk by putting together disparate media images and nasty comments. There are quotes here to make you just shake your head, like the one about the Marine Corps general who wanted to set off a nuke in Camp Pendleton as a training exercise. Go ahead, give it a try.

RELIGION WATCH Vol. 2 #5 (\$14/yr from PO Box 652, North Bellmore, NY 11710): "A Newsletter Monitoring Trends in Contemporary Religion", RW is an excellent source for news of the various churches in America today, as long as you don't mind never knowing what you'll find. This issue touches on AIDS and the reactions of various denominations, talks about Catholic charismatics, and lists the major churches in Poland, among many other snippets. The news is distilled from many religious periodicals, and they're giving short reviews of these in a pullout section. A vital resource.

RELUCTANT SADIST (50 cents from H. Weaver, 7645 Gifford St. #203, Norfolk, VA 23518): An 8-page digest-sized comic. The lead story, "Artistic Delusion", makes nearly no sense at all, although there seems to be some philosophy lurking below the surface. The other piece, "Pintos of the Gods" is cute but

fluffy. Basically not compelling stuff, though the artistic style is nice.

REM:6 (\$1 from Charles Platt, 9 Patchin Pl., New York, NY 10011): A journal of stfnal literary criticism, which is a fancy way for me to say that Charles and his essayists shoot the breeze about science fiction. The views will not always be universally popular, as the Great Cyberpunk Debate gets a nod, and Andrew Weiner suggests that it's time to bury Phil Dick. In fact, the willingness to state unpopular views makes REM fun to read, with Charles roundly condemning ALIENS as a lousy movie and trying to explain the sort of old-fashioned literary standards he uses to identify good writing.

RENEGADE #4 (\$1 (?) from PO Box 41822, St. Petersburg, FL 33710): A digest-sized zine of Native American affairs. Some news here, some tributes to native leaders, some notes on traditional practices such as herb use. They also publish poetry and provide a calendar of upcoming events. This issue continues a series on the strained relation between the Mormon church and the American Indians.

RESISTANCE NEWS #23 (Sample \$1 from National Resistance Committee, PO Box 42488, San Francisco, CA 94142): What these people are resisting is the draft. RN keeps one up to date on such things as the compliance rate with registration (about 81% for the 20-year-olds; the youth of America may be smarter than I thought) and the fate of those indicted for nonregistration. There's also a long article in this issue from Paul Jacob, explaining some of his current thoughts on the system and the country.

(R)EVOLUTION #2 (\$2.50 from PO Box 306, Onondaga Stn., Syracuse, NY 13215): This one is edging towards the Publisher's Choice column, but the infrequent publication -- a year between the first two issues -- slows me down. Still, this is well worth sending for even if they never publish again. "What we are calling for is a worldwide revolution, as nonviolent as possible, asserting the fundamental liberty and equality of all humans, committed to replacing all coercive and exploitative forms of social and planetary management with voluntary/ cooperative alternatives." Their method is to reprint almost 100 pages of seminal works from Kropotkin, Crowley, Black, Walesa, de Cleyre, Albert Parsons and more. A great book of resource readings for anarchists and others of like ilk.

RHETORIC FARM #8 (\$1 from Jordan Gruener, PO Box 43171, Tucson, AZ 85733-3171): Well, this is mostly a pfanzone, with interviews of The Johnnies and FIREHOSE's Mike Watt being the centerpieces. But there are little touches that stake out a wider claim than that of most zines: a review of MAUS: A SURVIVOR'S TALE; short poetry and very short fiction; and a bad review of some of Richard Kern's films, which usually get raved about in the underground.

RICK KIRBY #1 (75 cents (?) from Big K Comics, 14623 Sylvan #113, Van Nuys, CA 91411): This comic by Michael Klopner is subtitled "Super-villain Smasher". Rick Kirby is not a superhero but just a fast guy with a gun and the cynicism of any dime-store detective. In this issue, he takes out a couple of random supervillains and then decides to flick it all in and head to the hills, stopping only to explain himself to his inflatable latex girlfriend. It's a tough world for some folks.

ROCK N' BISCUITS #10 (\$5/6 issues from Libby Gast, 3704C Manor Dr., Greensboro, NC 27403): A pfanzone that concentrates on the South. The highlight of this issue is probably the long interview with rock/country madman Eugene Chadbourne, although the dB's have a thing or two to say as well. Capped off with a page of club dates for the Triangle Area.

ROCKSTAR #69 (\$50/yr from Actual Media, V.le Dell'Universita, 11-00185 Rome, ITALY): Just thought I'd mention this to show what you might be reading if you weren't smart enough to subscribe to FF. 100+ slick pages of colorful pictures of your favorite what else? rock stars, complete with a centerfold poster of Boy George. Probably the most outlaw group here is Feargal Sharkey. And to top it

all off, it's in Italian. But remember: this is a Collector's Item. Save me, I'd rather have fun than an investment.

ROGUE'S GALLERY #7 (Sample 39 cents postage, normally \$1 from PO Box 480892, Los Angeles, CA 90048): "We cover a type of music known as 'Rogue Folk', which is British Isles traditional music which has been subverted through the use of other musical genres, mainly rock." In other words, stuff like the new album from Boiled in Lead (reviewed below). Within their genre, they do pretty much what you'd expect, talking to musicians (The Battlefield Band in this issue) and reviewing records, as well as a bit of networking.

ROMAN REPORTS, Jan. 1987 (\$19/yr from Harry H. Peck, 7125 Liberty Rd., Solon, OH 44139): A newsletter which seriously investigates the various schemes for making money at home, or in your spare time, or through multi-level marketing (MLM), and so on. Harry actually sends for the materials involved, evaluates and tries them, plans a budget, and tells his readers when things are just a scam. Good, solid information, and it looks like this would be a great help to anyone trying to navigate through the confusing claims and ridiculous promises of the folks selling these various plans.

RUMBA (PO Box 269, 00181 Helsinki, Finland): I'm pretty sure they can handle American money, so I'd say \$4 or so ought to get you a copy of this Finnish music tabloid if you're lucky. I can't read it, but I can appreciate that this mammoth thing reviews a bunch of bands we all know (like The Smiths or the Psychedelic Furs) as well as many more which I surmise must be European (Miljoonasade, 500 Kg Lihaa). Plenty of pictures, reviews and interviews.

THE RUNESTONE #60 (\$15/yr from AFA, PO Box 1754, Breckenridge, TX 76024): The publication of the Asatru Free Assembly, this is a pagan zine for those attracted by the Old Norse Pantheon. Most of their space is devoted to explaining things to newcomers -- things like the holidays they observe, or the goddesses and gods they worship. There's also stuff on virtues like courage and victory, and a catalog of books and reprints that explain more.

RURAL NETWORK ADVOCATE #40 (\$10/yr from Rt. 2, Box 1508, Gays Mills, WI 54631): For another \$15 you can join and get in touch directly with the other members of the network instead of standing on the sidelines. As the name suggests, the people networking here are for the most part out in the boonies, trying to survive on less than our consumptive society suggests is necessary. People join to be supported, and end up supporting others, or at least that's how it looks to this outsider.

THE RUTGERS CONTRARIAN Vol. III #2 (\$15/yr from PO Box 752, New Brunswick, NJ 08903): One of the new wave of conservative campus tabloids, RC distinguishes itself from its peers (and a bunch of the left as well) by having a sense of humor. Sure, they spend most of their space reminding us of the evils of communism, but they also attack mandatory PIRG funding, talk about Russian rock music and discuss the hidden ideological message in Little Red Riding Hood. Whatever you think of their politics, RC presents a thought-out point of view in a reasonable fashion.

SAIIC NEWSLETTER Vol. 3 #1 (\$8/yr from PO Box 7550, Berkeley, CA 94707): Somehow, that stands for South and Central American Indian Information Center. They present all of the bleak things that are happening to the native peoples of the Americas south of the United States: cutting down the Amazon forest, radioactive wastes being stored far from "civilization", land battles with those seeking to move in, and so on. And this is all on top of the political problems we've all heard about. A pretty bleak story, with no obvious solutions.

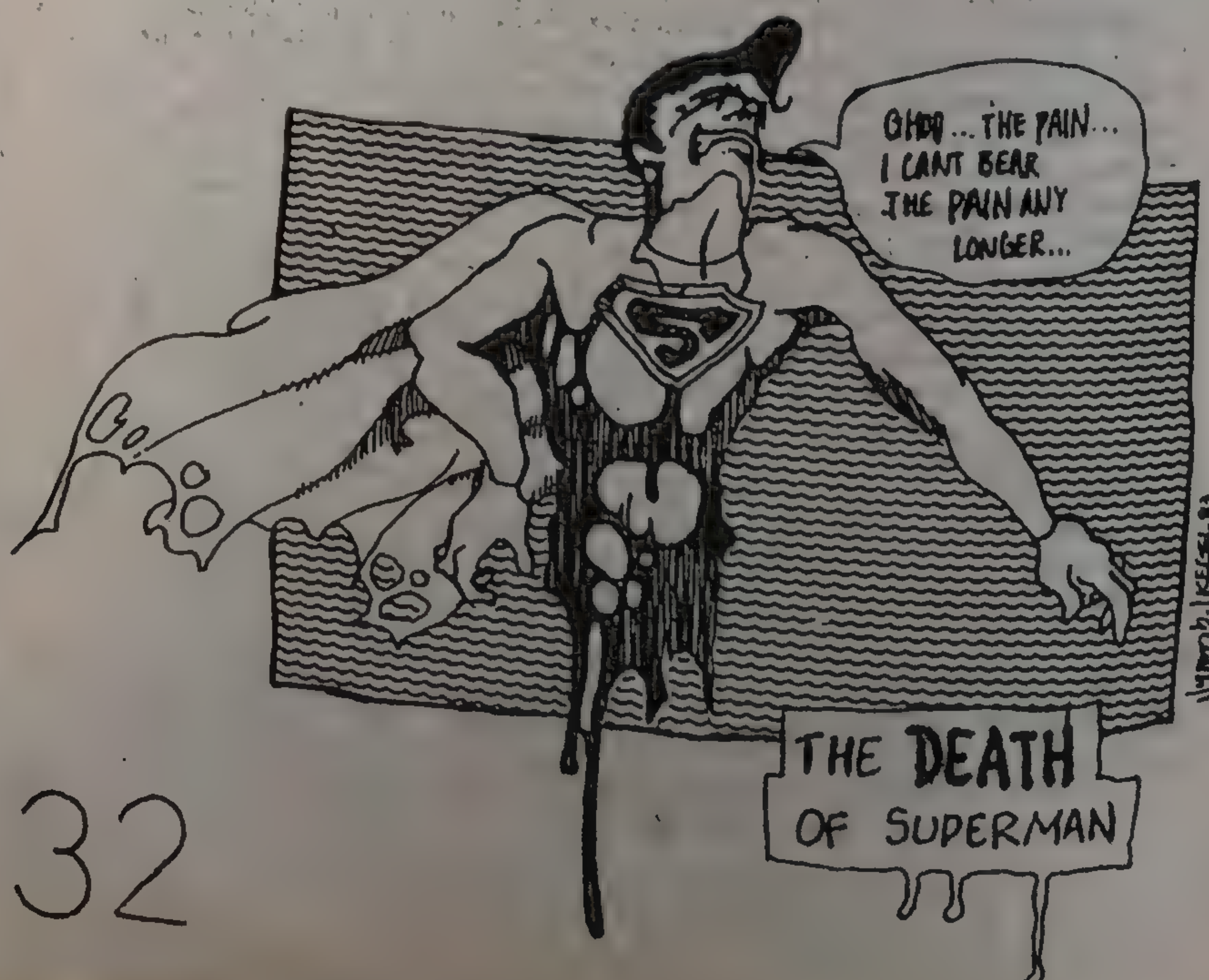
SANCTUARY, SI! Vol. 2 #3 (\$10/yr from Walker Community Church, 3104 16th Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 55407): This is one of the churches that is openly defying the government by sheltering Guatemalan refugees. Their small tabloid covers all aspects of the situation, from the terrible conditions in Central America, to the involvement of the United States in creating them, to the "deportation mill" at Oakdale. The sanctuary movement is still going strong -- the Feds may have bit off more than they can chew this time.

SAUCER SMEAR Vol. 34 #3 (\$1 (?) from James Moseley, PO Box 1709, Key West, FL 33041): Finally, a UFO zine that I can endorse wholeheartedly (not that I've been looking very hard). Jim discusses not only the flying saucers, but more importantly the flying saucer fanatics, and he knows the people he's talking about. A very few cases survive his scrutiny to be pronounced "interesting", but they don't concern me. I'd much rather read the dirt about all the nuts that inhabit the field and their petty squabbles, which are here supplied in abundance. Fun to read whether you're a believer or not.

SAVE HAWAII (\$12/yr from PO Box 888, Captain Cook, HI 96704): A tabloid documenting various and sundry environmental problems (broadly construed; one such problem is the storage of nuclear weapons at Pearl Harbor) in our fiftieth state. They question future development in wilderness areas, discuss plans to zap papayas with radiation to kill the fruit fly eggs (how wonderful, I think I'll eat something else), talk about the pesticides found in local wells (lots of them), and in general make me think about vacationing in Vermont instead. I suspect this sort of thing is not popular in a tourist economy, but I'm sure it is necessary.

SCAVENGER'S NEWSLETTER #38 (70 cents from Janet Fox, 519 Ellinwood, Osage City, KS 66523): A zine for the writer trying to break into the sf/fantasy/horror genres. Janet typically devotes some space to a major article, mentions markets new and old, and passes on industry news. Thoughts on how to write are discussed as well as the nuts and bolts (like response times, or how to mail things). Regular columnist Billy Wolfenbarger reviews a few zines in depth. And don't forget that there's still time to get your work in for the '87 Killer Frog contest, a competition for horror stories so bad they're funny. \$1 for to enter, send for issue #37 for more details.

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SCIENCE AND NATURE #7/8 (\$6.50 from 53 Hickory Hill, Tappan, NY 10983): A substantial (160 pages) academic journal which bills itself as "The Annual of Marxist philosophy for scientists". The authors apply Marxist reasoning and critiques to various contemporary scientific problems, from non-standard analysis in math to the rationality (or lack thereof) of the creative process. Sometimes, as in the cases of quantum physics or the Big Bang, the adherence to Marxism puts the editor in wild disagreement with the contemporary consensus, yet he sticks to his guns and defends his positions reasonably well. This is written technically for a specialized audience, one that understands both science and Marxism, but those scientists it's aimed at should lap it up.

SCRAP #3 (99 cents from Plutonium Press, 3645 N. Marshall Way #3, Scottsboro, AZ 85251): The name is appropriate: the damned thing has been shedding confetti all over my study. Mail art from the great southwest, featuring bizarre pictures and bits of detoured ads, poetry and collages, and more damned confetti. The images tend to be anti-industrial or anti-establishment, as is usual for this sort of publication. My copy came with a personalized sticker, liberally coated with confetti, but I don't know what you should do to be so lucky.

SERPENTDREAM #2 (95 cents from Larry Loc, 119A Avenida Rosa, San Clemente, CA 92672): A strange and dreamy little booklet, mixing comics, photos, artwork, stories and vague hints into some sort of non-linear story. Or not-story, as the case may be. This is a very intriguing item, and while I most liked the relatively straightforward "Magickal Child" comic (very well drawn, by the way), I was most intrigued by the rest.

S.E.T. FREE (\$1 from PO Box 1124, Albuquerque, NM 87103): "The Newsletter Against TV", this one is published by the Society for the Eradication of Television. They're serious about it, but they work by argument, not force, so I'm not worried. All sorts of bits and pieces of news that makes television look bad, as well as some philosophical base and some ideas of alternative activities (though isn't talk radio almost as bad?).

SHADOWBOXING Vol. V #2 (50 cents (?) from 6964 N. Greenview, Chicago, IL 60626): It says "FREE" all over this thing but it'll cost 'em half a buck or so just to mail you a copy, so send something. This is essentially a local grassroots arts magazine; they accept submissions of anything (poetry, fiction, music, cartoons, you name it) from the greater Chicago area only. This time around the one short bit of fiction was unexceptional, but some of the poetry really stood out. Bruce Fournier's "The Final Frontier" and H.R. Felgenhauer's "Art Gang" were both well-crafted, thought-provoking, and about something other than junkies or sick sex. Also of note is Miles Okamura's series on copyright law. Once again, Chicago has come up with a vital innovation.

SHADOWPLAY #11 (A\$4 from PO Box 343, Petersham, NSW 2049, AUSTRALIA): One of the very few overseas zines I consider it to be really worth my while to trade with. A substantial digest-sized neopagan journal, SHADOWPLAY keeps track of much activity in Oz, not only in rituals and groups but in music and publishing as well. Festivals, overseas news, stories, art and poems, and a bit of humor: they're all here, making this a very easy zine to read. This doesn't make it insubstantial; there are serious articles on ritual and history, but they're separated by enough other stuff to give the reader a breather. Check out the work on the myths associated with Lovecraft — quite amazing what some folks will try to believe.

SHARK TACTICS 1 (Send an IRC to Michael Cobley, 18 Athole Gdns., Hillhead, Glasgow G12 9BA, SCOTLAND): A new broadsheet sfzine in the tradition of the late lamented CHEAP TRUTH, thoughtful but flawed by the dreadful computer printing I'm starting to associate with zines from the UK. The lead editorial discusses the newer SF as a "pornography of violence", and other bits tackle the stupidity of writing in a field that pays so poorly and what to pick and miss on the bookshelves.

SHITSHEET (30 cents from Adam Lisberg, 2301 Prairie, Aurora, IL 60506-5235): A single sheet from the guy who also runs Extinct Distribution, fine purveyor of fanzines like this one. The front side is devoted to mindless gossip and annoying questions, and is pretty fun if you know any of the personalities involved, even only through zines. The back side is all record reviews. Who knows if there will ever be another issue, but I'm sure this one is still available. Throw in an extra 50 cents for the fanzine catalog, you won't regret it.

SHORT FUSE #23 (50 cents & 56 cents postage from Holden, PO Box 90436, Santa Barbara, CA 93190-0436): A black and white mail art thing, with a heavy content of poetry that is long on images and sounds and short on ideas. Plenty of collage art, some with SubGenial overtones (which I may be imagining), plus original line drawings. Basically the mishmash you could find long ago in MADNESS, if anyone remembers that particular zine.

SHOW ME FREEDOM Vol. 2 #1 (\$5/yr from Missouri Libertarian Party, PO Box 3231, University City, MO 63130): There certainly are a lot of state LP newspapers these days. This one differs from most in having a large base of substantive articles on economic and freedom issues, by people like Ron Paul and Murray Rothbard. They're all reprints, but if you don't have the original works, this is a cheap way to get acquainted with some high-power libertarian thinking.

SHREDDED SLIME #6 (\$1 & 39 cents postage from PO Box 1027, Oxen Hill, MD 20745): This pfanzine has dumped the record and zine reviews on the theory that they don't do any good, and in order to leave more room for outrageous stuff. Charlie Chain babbles on about the Third Reich and how it was misjudged at Nuremberg, the underground "Fuck school!" flyer is reprinted for the benefit of children everywhere, but that's only the appetizers. The main course is a Psychodrama interview. They're an outspoken white supremacist band who no one else would talk to, so Jim did it, not to endorse their stuff, but to open up the discussion. This takes up most of the issue and is definitely worth the price of admission.

SICK TEEN (46 cents from Rev. Norbert Elmo Ugly, PO Box 918, Green Bay, WI 54305): So it takes nine months between issues, so what, it'll take you nine months to read this thing, and it's only 16 pages long. The secret is microprint plus an incredible amount of marginal graffiti, pictures, rude suggestions, and bits of art swiped from all over. Norb reviews whatever he runs across in the punk world, and he doesn't mince any words — if you're weak of heart or a committed feminist, don't bother to buy this. But all you strong young male punks will love it. Cheerfully irreverent and definitely a prime source for news and interviews (Short Dogs and Chrome Dildos in this issue). You must experience this zine at least once in your life.

SIGNAL INTERNATIONAL #64 (\$5 from Raimo Kaarna, Pilkekatu 1, FI-15240 Lahti, FINLAND): "World's Largest Penpal Magazine", this issue has close to 900 listings from 100 countries, 250 or so with photographs. Listings in English and Finnish prevail, though there are a few other languages represented. There's a full page of listings of other penpal magazines, and a variety of bizarre ads: "GET FREE SEX PILLS! Learn homeopathy by 40 lesson book & earn name & money & get H.M.D. diploma..." trumpets one of them.

SLAMBOOK 3/4 (\$3 from See Hear, 59 E. 7th St., New York, NY 10003): A slambook starts as a batch of columns headed things like "Name", "Home Town", "Favorite Record", "What do you think about Neil Young" and so on. Rhen folks who pass through See Hear set down and fill in a row across, answering all the questions, or writing snide remarks under some of them. When the pages are full, Ted puts together another book. Learn the deepest secrets of such punk and publishing notables as Dave Burokas, Peter Davis, Carl Howard, Greg Ginn, Steve Albini, Tuli Kupferberg, and 46 more. Or go to New York and get your own opinions immortalized.

SLIMETIME #5 (\$1 (?) from S. Puchalski, 1108 E. Genesee St. #103, Syracuse, NY 13210): Twelve pages of densely-packed reviews of horror, sleaze and exploitation films. Not only are the films disgusting in themselves, but the reviewers

positively wallow in them. Sample recommendation: "A wonderful shot of a woman being boiled alive". Some of these are films that aren't even rated, although a few relatively light ones like "Godzilla vs. Megalon" are thrown in. Not something for the whole family.

SLUG (50 cents from Dave, 17 Poplar St., Waterbury, CT 06708): A satirical pfanzone that is so obscure that I'm sure I missed three-fourths of the jokes. So will most of my readers (if you don't think it amusing that Shane Williams is credited with writing the latest KILLER, don't bother getting this). Fanzine and record reviews and interviews, none of them informative, all of them cruel or at least unusual, like the one with the new Sonic Youth, who killed the original band and stole their instruments.

THE SMALL PRESS BOOK REVIEW Vol. II #4 (\$4 from Greenfield Press, PO Box 176, Southport, CT 06490): There doesn't seem to be any overlap between the "legitimate" small press publishers these folks cover and the outright lunatics who appear in my own book column. Go to SPBR if you want to learn about books on Parisian cemeteries, passing the postal workers exam, Hilda Doolittle, or the romantic inns of Mexico. Good source for addresses of small publishers, just in case you've finished a book about the tail feathers of parrots or something.

SMALL PRESS REVIEW March 1987 (\$16/yr from Dustbooks, PO Box 100, Paradise, CA 95969): This is a quick and interesting guide to what's happening in the small press, as opposed to just the small literary press. SPR is not just reviews; currently there's controversy raging over the charging of "reading fees" to enter various contests, which seem to be proliferating faster than there is any need for them. (Indeed, even PF is getting such notices now). SPR also carries Merritt Clifton's "Help" column for those interested in printing their own and, of course, reviews.

SMASH APATHY #4 (\$1 (?) from PO Box 1216, Fairlawn, NJ 07410): A somewhat crudely-printed indictment of the whole music industry -- by which the author apparently means anything more complex than a band driving around in a van and playing gigs they booked themselves. The basic idea seems to be that success and major labels and big bookings and shows with lines and record releases and all that is selling out the punk ethic, but the writer makes a considerably more subtle case than I am able to do in a paragraph.

SMURFS IN HELL #3 (\$3 from Robert Carr, 2210 N. 9th St., Boise, ID 83702): Funny as, you'll pardon the expression, hell. A satirical attack on just about everything Yuppies hold near and dear, camouflaged as post-Armageddon satire. Holistic Ralping, a few pages from THE SURVIVALIST #87, the Ninja Colostomy Bag, Bhopal Malls 2500's ad, the cover of JERRY BROWN AND HIS WHINE & CHEESE COMMANDOS comics ("Blood! Guts! Tofu!"), and plenty more. Robert has put together modern medioid images with their logical conclusions and created a world of horror, radiation, and advertising. Yes, we can all laugh at the Bomb, if only we let Madison Avenue show us how.

THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC #29 (75 cents from Industrial Union Party, PO Box 80, New York, NY 10159): What I wonder is -- and this is not a criticism directed specifically at the IUP -- how long the socialists and communists will proclaim the imminent downfall of capitalism due to internal contradictions? Perhaps analysis of the problems won't do it without an active revolution. Anyhow, the IUP starts out from the workplace, calling for strong unions that cut across craft lines, followed by union appropriation of the means of production. Then the golden age will come. Meanwhile, SR will talk about the failure of contemporary unions, the "Hitlerian Repressions" of the current administration, and the downtrodden on whom capitalism depends.

THE SORCERER'S SCROLLS #21 (\$1 from Tori Bergquist, PO Box 117, San Simon, CA 95632): A zine for RPG (Role-Playing Game) enthusiast, directed primarily towards those who referee the things. Each issue contains outlines for things to do to your players, or even complete adventures, like the very nice "Attitudes R Us" from Ron Britton in this issue. Systems covered include D&D, T&T and Autoduelling, but a lot of this stuff is widely adaptable. Tori also runs some PBM games.

SOUND CHOICE #7 (\$2 from PO Box 1251, Ojai, CA 93023): One of the zines that tries to review all of the independent music in the world. The stress here is on "independent"; they make a fetish of amateurism. Editor Dave Ciaffardini goes so far as to say he wouldn't buy music he liked from RCA, since they finance evil politicians. That's a fine stand, but in that case SC should make it clear that they're reviewing only cutting-edge music put out by good companies. Of course, even that limitation leaves a lot to do: over 500 records and tapes are reviewed here in short blurbs, and artists like Eugene Chadbourne and Beat Happening are interviewed about the state of the scene. Buy a sample copy before subscribing so you can see the free cassette offer for new subs.

SOUR MASH #1 (\$1 from 220 Lake St., Mt. Horeb, WI 53572): A new zine whose editorial policy is "who gives a bloody fuck" and promises to let people have their say about anything, no matter how offensive. This premiere issue doesn't live up to that promise, with most of the writing being just undisciplined meanderings about love. If an open editorial policy means pubbing bad prose instead of dangerous prose, why bother? The poems aren't a lot better. I suggest that a few of you readers try to help by writing really "damaging" stuff and sending it in.

THE SOUTH CAROLINA LIBERTARIAN Vol. XI #1 (\$15/yr from SCLP, PO Box 50643, Columbia, SC 29250): No prizes for figuring out that that stands for South Carolina Libertarian Party. This is a fairly informative combination of state and national LP news, with a Ron Paul interview in this issue and a column by Terry Mitchell, the National Director of the LP. Amazingly, Mitchell manages to screw up the English language noticeably in one part, making me wonder if the LP is really a serious party. Doesn't anyone proofread their propaganda?

SOUTHERN LIBERTARIAN MESSENGER March 1987 (\$5/yr from John Harilee, Rte. 10 Box 52A, Florence, SC 29501): All the news that's fit to laugh at. John publishes newspaper stories of two types: either showing how stupid the government is, or showing how great the Libertarian Party is doing. I laugh at both, particularly when the latter (as in this issue) are long out of date. But if you want evidence that the bureaucrats don't know what the heck they're doing, this is the place to go.

THE SOUTH SOUND ALLIANCE March 1987 (\$15/yr from PO Box 921, Olympia, WA 98507): A tabloid that bills itself as a "progressive news journal" and is apparently put together by people from a whole lot of different groups. The special focus of this month's edition is herstory: "Rediscovering our foremothers" and similar articles cover the front page. Inside is plenty of eco-region, anti-nuke pro-ecology and so on news, and an extensive calendar of events in the bioregion.

SPAMAN #5 (50 cents & a stamp from Al Greenier, 65 Ingraham St., Bristol, CT 06010): A minicomic with a sometimes oblique plot but always nice drawing. In this issue, Spaman gets sent into space by his government to fix a malfunctioning Star Wars cannon (after all, he's a patriotic superhero). While there he meets up with Sputnik and St. Nick and causes a heck of an interesting explosion. But what about Janet back on earth, waiting for her mink?

SPEW AND REVIEW #24 (25 cents & SASE from Bob Konshak, 1490 E. Ryan Ave., Maplewood, MN 55109): Sometimes I think I took the wrong road with FACTSHEET FIVE. There's a lot to be said for staying small and amusing, like S&R. Bob talks about music, or anarchy (reprinting a panel from a Spider Man strip: "If everyone was like you, we'd have total anarchy!") or television or whatever makes him laugh at the moment. Short bits of societal leavings float in and amongst reviews and commentary. Funny though offensive at times -- if that attracts you, you're the right person.

SPOOKY PAWS #7 (50 cents & a stamp from Carah Productions, 833 1/3 N. Formosa, Hollywood, CA 90046): A minicomic dedicated to cats. Well, cats and Mohawk haircuts. Cat interviews, cat reviews and cat comics are the mainstays of this zine, which is actually about twice the size of your average mini. And where else can you get the local cat gossip?

THE STELLE GROUP LETTER Vol. 22 #1 (On request from PO Box 75, Quinalan, TX 75474): I don't know the history involved, but apparently the Stelle Group is one of those New Age communities trying to move towards some sort of utopia. What makes this issue of their newsletter interesting is the blunt discussion of all the legal and organizational problems caused by the resignation of their founder, under pressure from other members. More is hidden than said, but what is said is fascinating -- and also sad, for what it says about the New Age.

STORM WARNING Vol. 1 #3 (\$8/yr from 4710 University Way NE #1612, Seattle, WA 98105): Published by the Seattle chapter of Vietnam Vets Against the War (Anti-Imperialist), long on rhetoric and having identified one problem (the US readiness to support an empire via military action), they don't seem to offer a solution other than confrontation of the "Imperialists", which hardly seems sufficient to change the system. Nice slogans and posters.

STREETS AHEAD #4 (\$1 from Jennifer, 4644 Ruth Way, Union City, CA 94587): A pfnzine with a number of unsurprising interviews (The Hates, Th Inbred, Ten Tall Men) that saves the unexpected for last: A few words from Lawrence Ferlinghetti. There's also a bit of poetry and a page of record reviews. White-on-black layout makes this one look more depressing than it really is.

STRIDER COMMENTARY Jan. 1987 (\$12/yr from Lorne Strider, PO Box 554, Laytonville, CA 95454): I think Lorne may have taken the prize away from southern libertarian messenger for most effectively pointing up the absurdities of government. He discusses major news stories with a satirical flair that makes his point crystal clear: let's have less government. This time he provides a chilling list of all the different things drug hysteria is leading to, and then talks about trying to legislate human behavior.

STUF 4 (\$1.50 from 5290 S. Dort Hwy., Flint, MI 48507): I don't know what's going on here. This hovers around the borders of pfnzinedom, what with lots of skateboard pics and discussions on the NYC club scene (but they're a ways away, so why?), but then there are pages of news on this season's designer fashions, perhaps thrown in just to confuse. The only reviews are of a Steven King movie and a PIL concert.

SUBCULTURE #2 (\$2 from PO Box 141158, Hartford, CT 06114): "Alternative thought, Alternative music". That about sums up this zine, which is a pfnzine at heart but also finds time to talk about piss testing and Trident missiles. Even some of the music stuff is socially conscious, like the nice interview with Group of Individuals. Other groups covered include the Cramps and The Nails, plus a section on the best of British Pop. Varied both in genre and in issue, SUBCULTURE is large enough that this makes it seem diverse rather than unfocused.

SUBURBAN BRAIN FACTORY #1 (25 cents & a stamp from Martha McCamy, PO Box 607, Spring Green, WI 53588): A zine of mostly poetry and graffiti, with some art in between. Short bursts of feeling splatter about the pages here, but there's nothing really tying them together. The art is nice, and when it focuses in on the thoughts in the words, something almost clicks, but in this first issue, it didn't.

SUBVIOLENCE #3 (50 cents (?) from 286 Guerrero, San Francisco, CA 94103): All it says about getting it is "Write". This is a series of writings and collages, all with sort of an underlying theme of modern life going to hell in a handbasket. The best piece here is "Weekend", a tale of a man in a drab little life who finally gets fed up; it's followed closely by an untitled bit starting "Granite and marble/an institution made of these/is carved in your palm/at age 5/with chalk and crayons..." and goes on to catalogue the brainwashing devices of the world we live in. The collages surround nature with technology and entrap it. I got a kick out of the cover, showing some of the damage from the '71 earthquake I lived through.

THE SURVIVOR Vol. 6 #1 (\$10/yr from Atlan Formularies, PO Box 327, Harrison, AR 72601): Published by Kurt Saxon, author of THE POOR MAN'S JAMES BOND, MEDICINES LIKE GRANDDAD USED TO MAKE, and other classics. I gather that he expects the

collapse of modern industrial civilization any day now, and is trying to get out information on how to survive this. He's not big on telling people "how to kill" or any of that, but he does talk about how to keep guns working cheap, how to keep yourself alive, and why he's so worried by the political situation. This is politics at its most practical; ignoring elections and debates to prepare to save your own ass. A long business record proves that Kurt is no ripoff artist, which is somewhat unusual in the survivalist field.

SWEET & SWISHY Vol. 2 #4 (\$1 from White Knight Productions, Dept. SS, PO Box 656, Wautoma, WI 54982): A xerox zine filled with pictures of young women, about ages 3 to 14 or so, for those who like to admire them. Just to reassure the possibly hysterical, all of the stories and pictures come from public sources: newspapers, TV Guide, music publicity shots, and so on. Light reading for the pedophile.

THE SWEET RIDE #4 (50 cents from Randy Russell, 2431 N. High St. #25, Columbus, OH 43202): Well, Randy has switched jobs, and missed his financial aid, and otherwise screwed up on his life, but he's still having fun publishing. This is sort of a personal pfnzine -- if Randy wants to put George Shearing on the cover, he does, whether the readers will recognize him or not. A fair chunk of reviews, written in a high state of drunkenness, mix with miscellaneous personal writing. Randy gets out opinions on life, the universe and everything as well as music.

SWELLSVILLE Winter/Spring 1986 (\$5/yr from PO Box 85334, Seattle, WA 98145): "A Critical Guide for Consumer Deviants", says the cover. This is basically a reviewzine, but unlike PF or OPTION or SOUND CHOICE they don't do short reviews of everything -- they take long critical looks at a few things. So the reviews end up being essays: on the growth of Talking Heads, on the emotional core of Throwing Muses, on the music of The Scientists. There are also broader feature articles, like the one by Richie Unterberger defending the institution of bootleg records.

SYNTHESIS #24 (\$3.75/5 issues from LED, PO Box 1858, San Pedro, CA 90733): The League for Ecological Democracy is still the best source I know of for news concerning the international Green movement, in which you can't even tell the players without a scorecard. SYNTHESIS is such a scorecard, sorting out which parties are for what, investigating the results of Green action in their original German strongholds, reporting on regional and national conferences, and generally strengthening this network of people. Current literature is also tracked, and the price is superbly reasonable.

TACTICS OF THE MLL Vol. III #3 (\$1 from PO Box 1748, Long Beach, CA 90801-1748): I'm listed as a "Contributing Staff" member on this one, although I haven't had anything to say for years, and unless things have changed that's a good allegory for the Movement of the Libertarian Left itself. Conceived as a group of people at the cutting edge of the anarcho-capitalist revolution, they just haven't managed to get the word out, and TMLL limps along as a single sheet issued every once in a while. Too bad -- although I'm not that close to the party line any more, even their change would be a welcome one.

TARA #7 (\$8/yr from 427-3 Amherst St. #234, Nashua, NH 03061): A neopagan zine from the "TaraVajran tradition". The basic idea here seems to be an attempt to reconcile Eastern and Western traditions of spirituality, although there seems to be a preponderance of Western stuff in this issue. Of interest in this issue is a response to a previous editorial, in which Joyce Siegiest suggests opening Circles to the media might help to ease misconceptions about the Craft.

TEE VEE TRIVIA COMICS #2 (FREE from PO Box 6032, East Lansing, MI 48823): Put out by one "Sloucho", this is for the hardcore couch potato only. Silly (and poorly drawn) comics about the power of television trivia to combat evil, listings of the worst shows of all times, and of course trivia: In what prison did Jim Rockford serve his time? What was the Skipper's name on Gilligan's Island? Well, don't ask ME -- write to Sloucho if you want to discuss these deep questions.

THE TERRITORIAL HERALD Vol. VI #IV (75 cents from PO Box

7075, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677): The official journal of the Free Territory of Ely-Chatelaine. This is Marc Eric Ely-Chatelaine's personal kingdom, which has seceded from the United States in order to associate with other household governments run on libertarian principles. This issue contains a devastating review of FoFcon, as well as assorted news on the other household countries.

THE TEXAS SF INQUIRER #20 (\$2 from FACT, PO Box 9612, Austin, TX 78766; trades to 618 Westridge, Duncanville, TX 75116): A sfzine from the Fandom Association of Central Texas. Lots of book reviews, convention reports, movie reviews, and fan gossip. Also plenty of sercon stuff on FACT business meetings and convention planning and the like. Very little of the silliness found in most sfzines, which is actually quite refreshing. Probably of no interest to those outside of the field but nearly essential to those within.

THEISTIC EVOLUTIONIST FORUM Fall/Winter 1987 (\$7.50 from Edward T. Babinski, 224 Parliament Dr., Greenville, SC 29615): That sounds like a lot, but this is 74 pages and printed in the boonies, so it's probably fair. Ed is running a continuing written discussion on evolution, scientific creationism, and kindred topics, inviting both fundamentalists and skeptics to contribute (although it looks like most of the contents are from the latter, there are pages from the religious here and there). Some bits are reprinted from elsewhere, some are original -- the whole is sort of reminiscent of the way THE CONNECTION is put together, and might appeal to some of the same people. Where else could you find Teilhard de Chardin, Bertrand Russell, Robert Anton Wilson and Will and Ariel Durant all being quoted as authorities?

THIS ZINE SUCKS #5 (50 cents from 1601 Scenic Dr., West Trenton, NJ 08628): Hardcore is big in New Jersey -- maybe it's the chemicals. Anyhow, this is a zine dedicated to spreading hardcore attitudes (there's a great "Stamp Out Reagan" graphic, by the way) and to encouraging people to check out the local bands. Lots of short interviews and reviews, mostly of Jersey folks, but with a few foreigners thrown in. A lot of zine here for 50 cents, and if it sucks, it doesn't do so very hard.

THE THOREAU SOCIETY BULLETIN 178 (\$1 (?) from The Thoreau Lyceum, 156 Belknap St., Concord, MA 01742): For the fan of (who else?) Henry David Thoreau, put out by the Thoreau Society (membership \$20/yr; \$10 for students). They're interested both in Thoreau's life and on his influence on the world. Thus they explore his published writings and keep up a bibliography of other works in which he is mentioned. They also sell a variety of books by and about Thoreau, some in collectors' editions, some in more modern bindings at more modest prices. HDT deserves to be better known among anarchists and leftists generally; I can't imagine why I never ran across this group before.

THE THOUGHT March 1987 (\$1 from Philosopher's Guild, PO Box 3092, Orange, CA 92665): These folks have idolized rationality (in the great tradition of Ayn Rand) and are under the impression that the result is philosophy. Perhaps they should inquire into the contemporary views on the inseparability of facts and values, but I fear any such contradiction would only provoke more glib answers. Despite this basic conceptual problem, there are two things to read this zine for: to get news on the Orange County left wing, and to get some nice rhetoric in defense of libertarianism. But don't mistake The Thought for The Truth.

THREADBARE #7 (\$1.50 CASH from PO Box 20681, Seattle, WA 98102-1681): A SubGenial rag which has been taken over by the original editor, dissatisfied by the substitute editor, who was only filling in while the first guy, (S.T.B.) Prince (O.P.), was out of town. The time of prophecy has come to pass, and these folks are ranting and raving about the infiltration of the Muthah Church by Bobbies and other Pinks. Of course, at the same time they're still talking to the Discordians, who were long ago pronounced anathema by "Bob". Confused yet? Good.

THUNDERBOW #109 (75 cents from 4385 Hoyt St. #201, Wheatridge, CO 80033): A small pagan zine that has been coming out like clockwork for over nine years now. Not a bad

record for any zine. They have an earth-based view of the magickal world, and devote some space to keeping track of geological and meteorological events. They also provide hints on the practice of various types of magick, Tarot, I Ching, Runes, Ceremonial magick, and so on. Mostly a newsletter for the local group, this one is set up as an introduction rather than a complete course in itself. But they'll sell you the complete course in a series of chapbooks.

THE TICSOTA NEWSLETTER Jan. 1987 (\$15/yr from Martin House, PO Box 3983, Muskegon Hts., MI 49444): That is an acronym for "Things I can't say on the air", but before you get the idea that Clif Martin is some revolutionary pervert, let me assure you otherwise. He's a veteran talk-show host who can't say things because there isn't enough talk on the radio any more. So now he's trying to find and link others who are fascinated by the spoken word into a network connected by cassette tapes. All types of spoken stuff seem to interest him, although I don't think he knows about punkture yet.

TOM GILL PREDICTS Vol. 9 #9 (30 cents from TGP International, 2477 Sycamore Lane #E-6, Davis, CA 95616-5571): Apparently Tom was so overwhelmed with requests by my last review that he had to print a form letter to explain to people what he does. Let's do it again. TGP is a one-sheet zine designed in the wall poster tradition of the Orient, featuring Mickey Moose as a mascot and containing strange and funny stuff. Recent issues have included psychic predictions for 1987, a learned dissertation on farting and blue flames, and in this issue, the design for a backyard nuclear reactor to run your hot tub. Fantastic stuff! Looking for funny writers, too.

TORQUAMALIGUA R. KOENING'S KILLJOY ANTI-FANZINE #1 (\$1 from 20192 Itasca St., Apple Valley, CA 92307): A pfanzine dedicated to producing terrible eyestrain and uncontrollable rage in its readers. Well, no, actually the rage-producing stuff is directed at a select few in the underground music industry who the editor doesn't like, notably the staff of FORCED EXPOSURE. A bunch of other people also come in for abuse between interviews with the writer's aunt and a college radio station manager.

TREATY OAK TIMES (\$15/yr from 3014 Washington Sq., Austin, TX 78705): The newsletter of Lone Star Green, a Texan organization of folks who care about the earth. A mix of philosophical writing, practical ideas, and announcements of events and news. Notable in this issue is the address for a company that sells all-recycled paper products, including hard to find things like computer paper. Write TOT for more details; they're getting a commission.

TRUE CANDY #1 (50 cents (?) from 14623 Sylvan #113, Van Nuys, CA 91411): "The adventures of Dead Serious, Doctor of Rocknroll!", this is made up of a series of vignettes and very short stories. The Doc is a larger-than-life character, sort of Hunter Thompson crossed with Humphrey Bogart. This is entertaining stuff, like reading a classic forties detective novel with no plot and subtly-changed tough guy dialog. Well, I liked it, anyways, but then, I like Clint Eastwood movies too.

TRUST #5 (from Dolf Hermannstadter jun., Salzmannstrasse 53, 8900 Augsburg, WEST GERMANY): Cover price is 3 DM, but of course you should send more for postage. The "Suddeutsches Hardcore Magazin", this might even get me to brush up on my German, since it looks to be a pretty impressive pfanzine. About 70 pages of nice photographs intercut with articles and reviews. Negazione, Black Flag, and Conflict get prominent play in this issue. There are scattered bits in English, like the letter from one of the only punks in Malaysia, but 99% is in German.

TURN AROUND #2 (50 cents from Jenn Thomas, 1108 Chickasaw, Silver Spring, MD 20903): A photo-based pfanzine. The main core of this zine is the photos, but the words around and beside them are important to. Most of the verbal content is for, what kids can do, and so on. Social commentary alongside images that it's meant to affect. Jenn also handles distribution for Dischord Records and would love to have a list of the record stores in your area that carry indies, if

you can spare a moment to put one together.

T.W.I. #3 (\$2 from Curtis Olson, PO Box 19441, Washington, DC 20036-0441): A pretty darned impressive "Journal of politics and literature". Curtis starts out by reviewing, of all things, the Tower Commission report, and his review is both accurate and amusing. A while later he discusses the CIA opening his mail (although I discount his evidence; the same has happened to me under much more innocuous circumstances). But this isn't all politics; Al Poe presents a very funny guide to Teenage Sex Comedies -- you know, movies like "My Tutor" and "Porky's". This zine is doing well, and the improvement since #2 is impressive in itself.

TWIN CITY MEN'S CENTER NEWS Vol. 10 #6 (\$2 from 3249 S. Hennepin Ave. #45, Minneapolis, MN 55408): The TCMC is essentially a building block in the search for the new man, which I see as a natural outgrowth of feminism. They hold workshops and run support groups, publish poetry and cartoons, and keep track of news and events of interest. I hope to live long enough to see people worrying about new roles for people, but before that can happen, men and women may have to learn to live together separately in a new world. Then again, I don't seem to be having a lot of trouble on that front at the moment, so perhaps I'm just full of hot air.

TWISTED IMAGE #8 (\$2 from 1630 University Ave. #26, Berkeley, CA 94703): The tabloid of cartoonist Ace Backwords, who, incidentally, will send samples of Berzerkeley Comics to interested zine editors. The coup in this issue is the interview with Bukowski, still being a smartass after all these years. Inside we get Mary Mayhem's prison diary (apparently a true story), some letters on turning 30, music reviews, and bits and pieces of peripheral culture, together with a batch of Ace's graphics and comics. Good stuff.

TWISTED IMBALANCE (\$1 (?) from Art Decco, PO Box 12504, Raleigh, NC 27605): There's one great reason to get this tabloid: the "Spring Break in Nicaragua" centerfold poster, which would look good posted all around your school next February or so. Other features are reprinted from various sources, and discuss "ecotage" or "monkeywrenching", and the death squads in El Salvador, as revealed by one of their ex-members. A mix of social consciousness and bizarre, "Bob"-inspired graphics.

THE UNDERGROUND GRAMMARIAN Mar. 1987 (\$15/yr from R. Mitchell, PO Box 203, Glassboro, NJ 08028): I should warn people that, if his lack of response to FF is any clue to his thoughts, the editor is not interested in trading with other zines. Fortunately I have another source, and I can continue to read this heartfelt screeds against the lack of precision and thought that goes into much writing and teaching these days. In this issue, Mitchell suggests that properly trained slaves would go through a curriculum very much resembling that of today's public schools, and ruminates on the power of great quotations to inspire thought.

THE UNICORN Vol. X #3 (\$1 from The Rowan Tree, PO Box 3814, Minneapolis, MN 55408): A pagan zine that seems to be swinging towards trying to explicate men's magick, a passion they were once, I think, involved with. The most spectacular thing here is the art, including explicitly sexual stuff by Don Lewis (note I did not say "pornographic"). Poetry, Tarot and herbalism are continuing concerns.

UNZINE Winter 1987 (\$1 (?) from Gregg, 232 E. 16th, Columbus, OH 43201-1606): I'm not sure what's going on with UNZINE lately. Gregg is apparently on the verge of escaping from college, and his unconscious is dumping all sorts of ephemera on the page to make room for cramming: A photographic tribute to David Letterman, some strange Hints from Heloise, reprints from Little Free Press, and another plea from Oral Roberts, for example.

UPDATE ON THE INDEPENDENT PEACE MOVEMENT IN THE USSR (\$1 & SASE from Bob McGlynn, 528 Fifth St., Brooklyn, NY 11215): U.S. Newsletter of the Moscow Trust Group, an independent Soviet peace group. That means that they get thrown in jail instead of put on TV by the authorities. Anyhow, they have some friends in New York, who put out this list of trials, sentences, exiles and so on to keep at least some word of the Trust Group's actions spreading. They urge their readers

to write and cable the leaders of the USSR, demanding an end to harassment of their Moscow comrades, and have demonstrated in Gorky Park in support of the Trust Group.

THE UPRIGHT OSTRICH Apr. 1987 (\$3 from PO Box 11691, Milwaukee, WI 53211): My respect for UO increased when I saw a letter condemning their interest in "crank science" appear at the top of the letter column, taking far more space than they gave to any other. The UO staff are Constitutionalists dedicated to spreading any information which seems to them underpublicized. Besides tax revolt stuff, this includes Tesla science (which generated the above-mentioned letter) and the trend towards privatization of prisons or, as they bluntly term it, slave labor. Great cover this time featuring Reagan's P.P. Police, test-tube in hand.

UP YOUR IMAGE Jan. 1987 (50 cents from James Pochurek, U.S.F. #353, Tampa, FL 33620): This could end up being the East Coast's answer to ANTIMEDIA: a not-for-profit socially conscious zine from someone who also likes new music. James brings up a lot of the current issues in this zine, from the 800 club to drug testing to star wars to shaving is murder, apparently in the hope of provoking at least some of the others at his university to think and perhaps even write. This probably won't work, so it's up to us to write him instead. A good job of asking questions that demand tough answers.

USSR NEWS BRIEF (from Das Land und Die Welt e.V., Schwanthalerstr. 73, 8000 Munchen 2, WEST GERMANY): No hint of a price; it's small so a couple of IRCs should get you a copy. Subtitled "Human Rights", this is an accounting of all news the editor could gather about people imprisoned, questioned, released or harassed in the Soviet Union. A few independent groups and samisdat publications get mentioned as well. What's missing is any suggestion on how to help; writing on behalf of these people doesn't strike me as a great idea for them, but I don't know what else to do.

VICTORY MUSIC REVIEW Vol. 12 #3 (\$15/yr from PO Box 7515, Bonney Lake, WA 98390): If it's acoustic music, these folks are interested in it. Lots of reviews of folks you've never heard of unless you're similarly inclined, including the Suffering Gaels, No Strings Attached, Paul Geremia and Tony Rice. Special sections on womyn's music, folk music, jazz and other genres. An extensive calendar of local club listings and plenty of industry notes make this a treat not to be missed by those in the area. A successful alternative, both to the professional music magazines and the underground punk zines. (See also the review of their double album in the MUSIC section of this FF).

VIOLIN OUTBREAK #8 (75 cents from PO Box 72, Franklin Stn., New York, NY 11010): A great little pfanzine that stands outside of the "scene" and doesn't particularly want to come in. "Hey, why doesn't somebody start a new trend called 'bathing'? I mean we have all seen this new trend called 'smell like festering pus' and to tell you the truth, it wasn't too thrilling". There's also a great example of the "typical fanzine page" that is dead on, but there's also music reviews, record label interviews, and a guide to cursing in Finnish, so this is definitely not all negative. A great value, even if the schedule is more than a bit irregular.

VIRGINIA LIBERTY Vol. 3 #1-2 \$10/yr from LPVA, PO Box 28263, Richmond, VA 23228): Yes, another Libertarian Party tabloid. (Do the Republicans have state tabloids? How come I don't get them?) This issue takes a look at the LP nomination race between Ron Paul and Russell Means, talks about growth goals for the state LP, and prints the story of a man harassed by the police state in New York City.

WOODOO CHILD Vol. 1 #8 (\$1 from PO Box 374, Des Plaines, IL 60016): A newsletter from the Jimi Hendrix Information Management Institute, devoted to the memory of the dead superstar. They're into collectibles, audio and video archives, and news touching however remotely on Hendrix. They have a ton of collector's items for sale.

WAVELENGTH #74 (\$12/yr from PO Box 15667, New Orleans, LA 70175): "New Orleans Music Magazine" is what this tabloid calls itself, but except for the article on CDs (their sound has been "known to make grown men cry"), this one has a much

better mix of music reviews and local articles. I don't really care about another review of the latest Sorry record, but the pieces on Storyville, where Jazz originated, and on the local orange wine, now sadly difficult to find, were the sort of thing that can appeal to a much wider audience than they're hitting.

WAVES Vol. 2 #1 (\$10/yr from 1017B E. Pike, Seattle, WA 98122): "Puget Sound's Progressive Voice." In the absence of any statement of aims, I assume they just publish whatever they can find that seems progressive; this time around it includes an indictment of the way the welfare system works, some thoughts on monkeywrenching, plenty of anti-nuke stuff (with Hanford right there, I'm not surprised) and food irradiation. After a while all of these community journals seem the same -- I'd recommend trying to find one in your own community if you can and depend on it.

WAX TRAX RECORDS #1 (50 cents (?) from Jorge, 4 Henry St., Lakewood, NJ 08701): A zine from the guy who also does DEAD PEOPLE. If this were a major production people would scream about payola, but on this scale, it looks like a labor of love. Jorge likes the products that Wax Trax issues, and he reviews their products exclusively in this zine. Ministry, The Young Gods, Front 242, and Revolting Cocks are among the artists carried on this label, and you can read a lot about their records here if you want to know more.

WDC PERIOD #16 (\$1.50 from Gordon, PO Box 43311, Washington, DC 20010): Gordon and his crew keep cranking out these tabloid pfanazines, chocked full of reviews and interviews and art and who knows what -- even a comics column, and a reprint of one of Bob Black's rants ("Let us Prey"). The production is interesting, being a mix of typesetting, reduced type and handwritten portions, but the overall effect comes off quite well; they use the resources they have wisely but concentrate on getting tons of info out. Features this time on Broken Siren, Government Issue, Savage Republic and Sonic Youth. They're at the point now where the issues are as large as their printer can handle, so it looks like the next step is to become more frequent, which is good news.

WHATS UP (50 cents (?) from Joly MacFie, 151 First Ave. #159, New York, NY 10003): This is basically a printout of the contents of a computer bulletin board revolving around new music in New York. There are listings of club dates, various bits of news, and a summary of important events of the past couple of months. Accessible through Western Union -- write Joly for details.

WHAT WAVE #11 (\$2 from 44 Langarth St. East, London, ONT N6C 1Z1, CANADA): A zillion interviews of bands in every imaginable genre: the Cheshyres, Plan 9, Headless Horsemen and a bunch more parade through an unusual crop of features: top ten surfing songs of all time, comic-book reviews, and a page

on wrestling; for example. All the usual stuff, like zine and record reviews and live stuff and photos, is here too, and the price is right, considering the size and shipping troubles to the States. Who would have thought London, Ontario was a good place for new music?

A.L. WHITEHEAD (SASE (?) from PO Box 1315, Dixon, CA 95620): This person puts out strange handwritten diatribes that seem to be a mixture of literary criticism, science fiction, conspiracy theory, and libertarian propaganda. I'm not sure what the point is, but she seems to be having fun trying to get it across. Maybe after reading a few more copies I'll get the idea.

THE WHOLE SHMEER #10 (3 22-cent stamps from Helen Katz, PO Box 7742, Salt Lake City, UT 84107): Previous issues have been SubGenoid, but this is a radically new departure subtitled "The Days of My Life". It appears to be about three months worth of Helen's journal entries, dealing with the rise and fall of a love affair. There's quite a bit of feeling (both love and pain) here, and it rings true, although of course it could be just a carefully crafted piece from the imagination. "Just a compilation of mindrambling", the author has noted on my copy, so you might prefer to treat this as an extended freeform poem. In any case it is personal and affecting.

WHY MUSIC SUCKS (\$2 from Frank Kogan, 625 Ashbury #11, San Francisco, CA 94117): A reader-written forum moderated by Frank. In these 32 pages, a batch of people tackle the title problem and in large part conclude that it's because too many people are doing it themselves. Of course in this many pages there are a lot more opinions than that, some I agree with, some I don't (for instance, Luc Sante claims there are no general-interest zines for sale at See Hear, only things devoted to one group. Maybe they were out of FACTSHEET FIVE when he visited). Frank is planning at least one more go-round on this issue, based on a set of questions on the last page here, so you have time to write and get involved if you want. Some folks that FF readers will recognize, like Mark Edwards and Mykel Board, are already a part of the debate.

LAIRD WILCOX EDITORIAL RESEARCH SERVICE (\$1 for info from PO Box 1832, Kansas City, MO 64141): Laird has got a variety of articles about his activities and I'm sure a buck will get you something. He's done for the literature of the political extreme what I hope some day to do with the broad underground: built up an impressive and well-used library, taking up 1400+ feet of shelf space at the University of Kansas. He publishes various books on the subject, and acts as a resource for just about anyone who wants to ask questions. College papers should take note of this.

THE WIRE #18 (\$3.75/yr from Progressive Press, 7320 Colonial, Dearborn Hts., MI 48127): A mail-art zine with an emphasis on "Dada and Fluxus art concepts", but they try to print at least a sample of all submissions they receive. More poetry and other words than collages here, although there is some of a lot of things, including a hand-colored cover. Overall it seems earnest but somewhat pointless.

WITNESS FOR PEACE NEWSLETTER Vol. 4 #1 (\$25/yr from PO Box 567, Durham, NC 27702): WFP is a group that tries to maintain a politically-independent non-violent US citizens' presence in the war zones of Nicaragua. I don't know which I'm more impressed by, their faith or their lack of common sense. Still, in these times, uncommon sense may be called for. Even if you can't stop a war by moral suasion, the very presence of these people at home and abroad serves to keep topics like Contra aid controversial.

WOMAN OF MYSTERY (\$3 from WOM'N, PO Box 1616, Canal St. Stn., New York, NY 10013): A newsletter for Agatha Christie fans, well-done although a bit small for the money (4 typeset pages). The format is interesting: this entire issue is devoted to Christie's first book (THE MYSTERIOUS AFFAIR AT STYLES) and gives background on the history and geography involved, Poirot's French catchphrases, explains references unfamiliar to modern readers (like what V.A.D. stands for) and in general seeks to act as a concordance to the published work. If they keep this up, a set of WOM could become quite a valuable resource.

WORLD UNIVERSITY TIMES Vol. 3 #11 (\$15/yr from CARP, 481 8th Ave., New York, NY 10001): The monthly tabloid of the Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles. That ring any bells? No? Well, they're the college arm of the Unification Church, more popularly known as the "Moonies". This issue celebrates their world convention, and I must say I've never seen so many disgustingly clean-cut young men and women in one picture in my life. Anti-communist, anti-drug, and pro-Moon, I don't think they have anything to offer the great majority of my readers, but some will probably be interested in checking them out anyhow. This is one case where you needn't bother to tell them I sent you.

WRESTLING OBSERVER NEWSLETTER 3/9/87 (\$5/4 issues from Dave Meltzer, PO Box 1228, Campbell, CA 95009-1228): I always sort of vaguely knew there were a lot of pro wrestlers out there, but until WON started arriving I had no idea of the magnitude of it all. Dave covers all of the wrestling leagues, internationally, and generates 8 or 10 pages a week of news. He treats it as serious entertainment rather than a sport, which sounds right to me, and publishes all sorts of gossip, reviews, quizzes, letters and anything else connected with wrestling. Best zine of its kind. (See also the BOOKS section in this FF).

THE WRITER'S EXCHANGE #4 (\$5/yr from Gene Boone, PO Box 394, Society Hill, SC 29593): Basically a zine to help along

the extreme beginner trying to get published. Gene lists markets, puts together a bit of news, runs writing contests (with an entry fee, write for details) and prints a bit of poetry as well as some "how-to" articles on writing.

THE YELLOW JOURNAL #2 (50 cents from John Smith, PO Box 93, Palatine, IL 60078): This pfanzone is still on the rising half of the growth curve, which means they're promising things (like record reviews) for the next issue that aren't in this one. This issue features GG Allin and Tony Alamo (not on stage together, although come to think of it, that would make an interesting show). Also people might want to note that YJ is offering free ads, though I wouldn't bother to plug anything too respectable there.

YELLOW SILK #22 (\$4 from Verygraphics, PO Box 6374, Albany, CA 94706): Editor Lily Pond calls this a "Journal of Erotic Arts", and I suppose that's as good a term as any. There are only a few basic changes you can ring on sex and love: desire, fulfillment, passion, frustration and maybe one or two more. The joy in YS comes from the skillful imagery, in poem, prose and art, used to ring those changes. This seems to be a sort of "food" issue with apples and kiwi fruit and radishes and linguini mixing in with joy and longing. This stuff is on the right side of the line between explicit and erotic, not that there's necessarily a wrong side.

YOUTH CONNECTION #2 (\$5/yr from Terry Inman, 3910 Nara Dr., Florissant, MO 63033): Double that price if you're not a student. Terry is attempting to develop a libertarian zine for and by students, the nucleus of a "Libertarian Student Network". In this issue there are comments on the LSN platform (including some from me — where did I find the time?) and further thoughts from Terry on building a good movement, together with some clippings of Libertarian interest.

ZETETIC 3 (40p. from Joy Hibbert, 11 Rutland St., Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, ST1 5JG, ENGLAND): Don't be chintzy, send some IRCs too. For those of you without a decent dictionary (Webster's collegiate falls down on this one), "zetetic" means, roughly, "inquiring", and that's exactly what Joy and her friends are doing here. Although it comes out of the SF fan community, the topic of this zine is religion, and the pages are open to all sorts of discussion. Vedanta and Yoga, faith, neo-paganism and Buddhism all come in for attention this time. Thoughtful articles followed by a wonderful mix of intelligent letters make this one a real winner.

ZOIKS! (50 cents from Skip Elsheimer, 604 Dixie Tr., Raleigh, NC 27607): If I wanted to get fancy I could call this an "alternative college literary zine", but the truth is, it's just Skip and friends expressing themselves through short stories, poems, and artwork. Not bad stuff, particularly the two-page stories, which beat the hell out of the pretentious stuff the official college litzine is probably printing. There's also a special "no words" mail-art issue available for 75 cents.

J. C. BRAINBEAU

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by Bob Grumman

KALDRON-20 (\$5 from PO Box 7036, Halcyon, CA 93420-7036): Features most of the best Americans in verbo-visual art including: Michael Winkler, who spells ordinary words with lines drawn between the letters of circles alphabets, the resulting designs turning the words un-ordinary; Dick Higgins, who dances a drawing of letters across musical staves to combine 4 arts; George Myers, Jr., who collages a scream and more from a newspaper layout; Crag Hill, who also contributes a collaged scream, this one descending into a rocky field's huge human ear; editor Karl Kempton, who combines Arabic symbols, Escherian opticality, letters, and who knows what else, into wide-temperated visual poetry; Bill DiMichael, who creates a version of the universe's beginning; Miekal And and Dan Raphael, who combine in a collaged impression of late Victorian science, and...I could go on and on but lack the space.

ALEA #2 (\$5 from 2770B Argyll Ave., Concord, CA 94520): An interesting mix of collage (Ryosuke Cohen), visual poetry (Karl Kempton, Richard Kostelanetz, Carolyn Stoloff, Bob Grumman), experimental texts (J. Elgo, Harry Polkinhorn, Chasen Gaver, Lyn Lyfshin, Sheila E. Murphy, Tom Whalen), illuscryption (Michael Gibbs), even straight fiction (Richard Hollinger), drawings (nudes by Walt Phillips) and found art (Anatoly Zyyxx). There is also an uncategorizable but very funny poem by Warren C. Miller satirizing MODERN MATURITY. It seems to me that ALEA effectively reflects a good deal of what is going on at the non-commercial edges of literature today.

XEROLAGE 7 (\$7 from 1311 Williamson, Madison, WI 53703): Collages, all by Vittore Baroni, all containing the human face, generally taking up most of the page and always altered in a vivifying way. One, for instance, is rendered featureless, then overprinted with a portion of a map of California. Baroni's images come from newspaper stories of sensational murders and murderers. The xeroxing of these images from an already low-definition source gives them an all-the-more-lurid alley-tone. Lloyd Dunn says of XEROLAGE that is "is a must for anyone interested in xerox work" and I agree.

PHOTOSTATIC 23 (\$16/yr from 330 S. Linn St. #7, Iowa City, IA 52240): A collection of international verbo-visual art, mostly xeroxed collages, which is loosely connected to the theme, "Disinformation". It is loaded with scrambles that come off both funny and esthetically effective -- such as Miekal

And's deconstructed and then richly repacked hundred-dollar bill (or "ONE REDDOLLAR") at the end of which, it says in small print, is a fact-index. The magazine also contains an excellent section of reviews by editor Lloyd Dunn.

MALTHUS #2 (\$4 from 3217 B Carleton St., Berkeley, CA 94704): A magazine with 4 different sizes of pages, the smallest with "1-2-3-Word Stories" by Richard Kostelanetz which are just what they say but reverberate through each other and widely elsewhere. A captivating piece of criticism/poetry by Tom Beckett starts on one size of page and then diminishes appropriately to smaller pages as it discusses the littling flaws of old-style stories. Other pages include collages, found art, jokes like Crag Hill's compass marked "north" and "least", a selection in resonantly minimal language from Tom Hamill's PRAIRIE, and more.

LOST & FOUND TIMES 20 (\$3 from 137 Leland Ave., Columbus, OH 43214): A poetry magazine mainly, with over 50 contributors, but it also contains drawings, collages, cartoons, short stories, humorous essays -- in fact, a huge variety of work. Much of it is funny and/or subtly crude. Violence abounds. Highlights include Al Ackerman's very funny drawings and writings, editor John Bennett's mind-clearing visceral "slobbered brick" poems of the everything all-at-once, a great collage/Picasso drawing/loony-cartoon cover by Rik Verlin Livingston, a precisely-accurate insane drawing of an F-producing "Consumer Machine" by Mike Miskowski -- and Yikes, there's truly neat stuff on most every page!

ATTICUS REVIEW #12 (\$3 from 720 Heber Ave., Calexico, CA 92231): "A Journal of Poetry, Fiction, Graphics & Criticism." Cliff Dweller is one of the contributors with a poem in different sizes of bold type which ends: "O boats sailing/ in the rain,/ you, too, can be/ cold shadows". Most of the rest of the magazine is not so lyrical or accessible. The majority of its densities, out of the language poetry movement, are worth persevering against, though.

VELOCITY (\$9 from 4350 McPherson Ave., St. Louis, MO 63108): "The Contributor Sponsored Alternative Arts Magazine". Send in 100 copies of an artwork -- visual, textual, or both -- and each copy of the next VELOCITY will contain the work, whatever it is. Is the result a lot of junk by self-indulgent tenth-raters who wouldn't be able to get published anywhere else? Surprisingly, no. 90% of the magazine seems almost slick, technically, and much better than slick esthetically. Xeroxed collages are frequent, but much hand-colored, and even hand-drawn material is also present. Poems, short stories, diatribes, reviews of current literature and music, valuable ads, and a film "annex" containing visual and verbal works by Crag Hill are, too.

RED LINES #7 (\$3 from 602 Fifteenth Ave. E, Seattle, WA 98112): A mixture which includes examples of Joe Keppler's almost always exciting "alpha-expressionist" visual poems to "Angel Claire's" very funny advice to the "art-lorn", which manages deft satire of both the pretentious artists and the most sub-artistic middlemen on the culture scene. Other visual poets whose work is included are G. Huth, Linda Packard, editor Trudy Mercer, Mike Miskowski, and Bob Grumman. The language poetry precincts are represented in various degrees by Ron Dakron, D.J. Hamilton, Greg Evason and Crag Hill while Bill Shively provides a more traditional but still enjoyable kind of poetry. I rate RED LINES high -- particularly for its balance between experimental verve and unabashed accessibility.

INDUSTRIAL SABOTAGE 36 & 37 (\$8 from 729A Queen St., Toronto, ONT M4M 1H1, CANADA): A collection of some of the best work around in North American verbo-visual art. Some of it confused me but I very much liked the illustration by Shaunt Basmajian of a quotation from Eugene Gomringer, "O AS THE CONSTELLATIONS AS THE SYMBOL AS NOTHING." In it a single small o floats high above a cluster of h's straining upward. I liked John Vieira's "Mountain" too. It features a large E which resembles the Chinese ideogram for "mountain". It is shown separating from and destroying but at the same time completing a scene built of o's and n's -- making it spell "one". There is much more of value in the double-issue, but again, I lack the space to go on..

GURMUDGEON CORNER

BY GARRY DE YOUNG



That sure is a neat heading you have over my column, thanks a million!

Say, let me explain why it is not possible to always get my magazines out on time. First of all I am swamped with all these legal actions which are unbelievably time consuming, nerve wracking and exhausting. Secondly, events happen so fast that when I'm working on one issue another pops up demanding immediate attention. My correspondence load is awesome and without a secretary I must do everything by myself.

Always I run short of extra copies and never, except for file copies do I have extra ones on hand. All of this is due to financial circumstances as much as anything else but if I am to dedicate all my efforts to fund-raising then it means the rest of my research must go down the tube. So it is a continuing struggle of robbing Peter to pay Paul.

In addition to everything else I am the District Director of the Associated Breeders of Campbell Ducks -- and by the way, you should mention our magazine, WISE QUACKS, in FACTSHEET FIVE. Editor of WISE QUACKS is Colleen Kozlowski, 9241 Eureka Rd., Girard, PA 16417. It is a good little magazine dealing with all aspects of small scale duck-raising.

As an aside, I should call your attention to the fact that ducks will die if fed antibiotics while the eggs and chickens and turkeys you eat are produced in poultry factories where tens of thousands of birds are raised in confinement, only being kept alive by being pumped full of antibiotics. Eggs are like sieves. Everything the chicken eats comes to you through the egg. So when you eat chicken eggs you not only get a good dose of antibiotics, but also you get a good dose of fowl leukosis -- chicken cancer -- which affects your immune system. Thus the reason for ducks for the individual who wants to have even a modicum of control over what he puts in his mouth.

One book I highly recommend to every reader of FACTSHEET FIVE is THE CONQUEST OF CANCER by Dr. Virginia Livingston-Wheeler (Franklin Watts, 1984; ISBN 0-531-09806-0). This book explains why cancer is a bacteria which can be treated by vaccination and how chickens are responsible for the breakdown of the immune system and thus also of significance to AIDS research.

Kindly pass on to readers of FACTSHEET FIVE that if I do not answer promptly to letters it is not due to intentional discourtesy but merely because I am swamped with work -- everything from running our nursery (we specialize in small fruits) to operating the hatchery and producing truck crops for the local market. Our family is the operating, small farmer prototype -- the kind neglected by the government of the corporations -- certainly not MY government.

That government of, by and for the corporations, which holds us in tyrannical subjection and submission, uses our

taxes to deny us the very protection guaranteed by the First, Fourth, Fifth, Fifteenth and Sixth Amendments of the United States Constitution.

This is done through county attorneys, state attorney generals and the entrenched, powerful bureaucracy which was not even elected to office by us.

Think about it a moment. When you have a grievance against a state agency -- be it a state university, or the welfare system, or any other branch of government, all of the resources of the government are put into play against you.

This means that not only does the state have its batteries of lawyers, but also the secretaries, the legal assistants, the typewriters, the copiers, the research facilities and expertise, the telephones, the computers, the media and most important of all, the political contacts.

What you have is yourself. You may be lucky to have a functioning typewriter but not likely to have a copier and likely you will be without a job. Without a job you will no longer have a telephone. Certainly you won't have legal representation no matter how much your Constitutional rights have been violated. You won't have a secretary (not even one who can't type but who can give you a boost in morale). Your wife will probably file for divorce, your friends will immediately desert you, your kids won't understand what it's all about and wonder why your family can't be "normal" like those next door, and of course, the schools -- being Establishment personified -- will be the deadliest enemy your children can find.

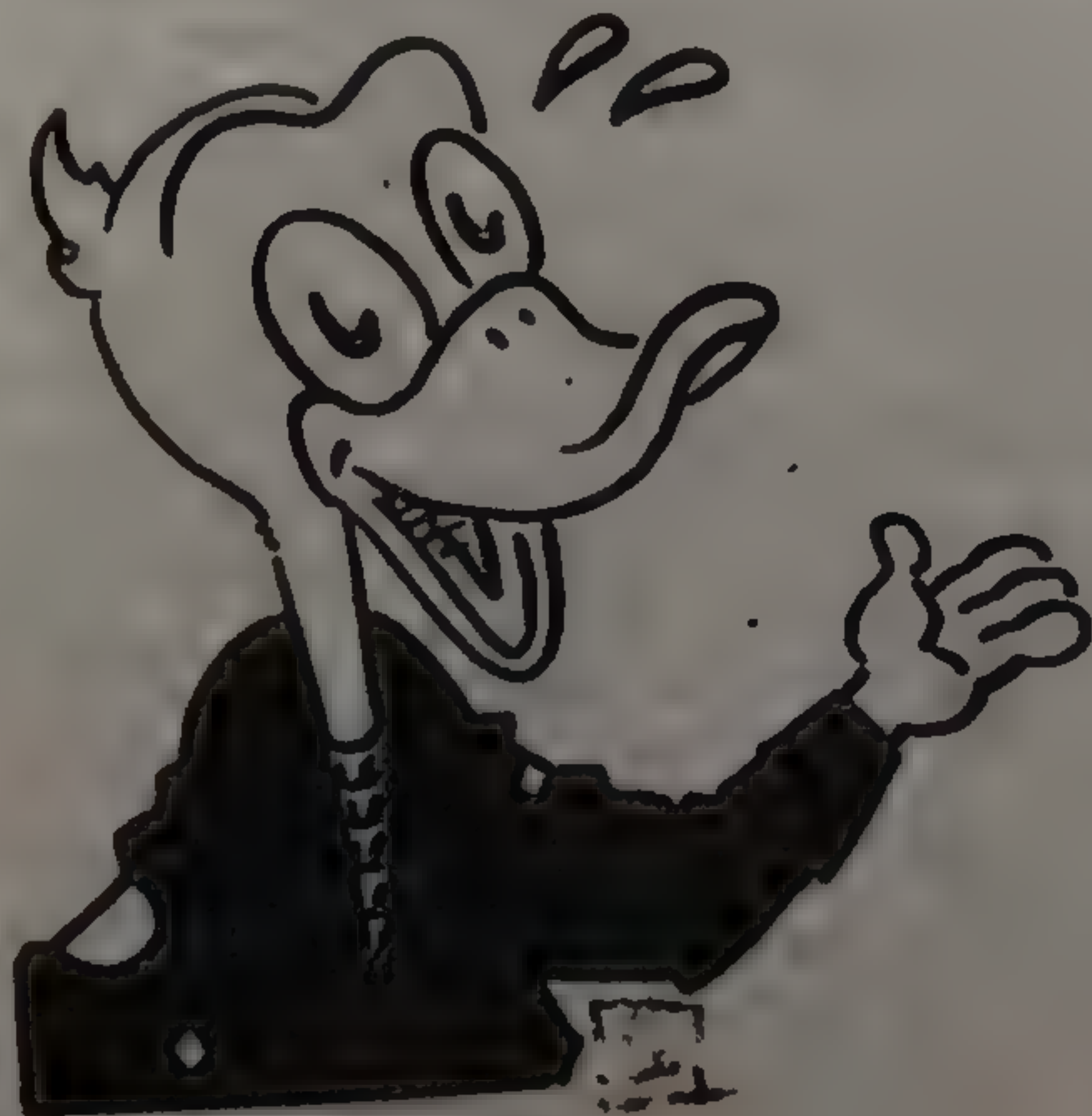
You are alone. Buddy, you are totally alone -- and you are reviled, discredited and humiliated, and horror upon horror, the worst thing by far which will happen to you, and this will happen FIRST, is that you will have lost your credit rating and will not be able to buy anything on credit. From now on EVERYTHING is cash on the barrelhead: to your doctor, to your dentist, to your grocer, to your landlord.

While the attorney general is building his case against you, denying you your Constitutional rights, you will be hounded by bill collectors. You will be visited by the Sheriff. Your home will be searched and all of the contents will be seized by the Sheriff.

You ask me how I know all these things? Easy. All of these, and many more, have happened, and are happening to me at this moment.

Always keep in mind that the song "Solidarity Forever" has been embraced totally by those tyrants keeping us in bondage.

This corporation government controlling us through every facility -- television, the courts, our statehouses -- is a sham and a disgrace and it is our fault for continuing to condone it.



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STARS ON ONE

BY ANNI ACKNER



Now that all the screaming is over, now that the awards have all been handed out, and the critics have fallen over each other in a mad race to come up with new and better and more enthusiastic accolades to heap, and the writer-director has been on every talk show from GOOD MORNING, AMERICA to LATE NIGHT WITH DAVID LETTERMAN, now that everybody in the country is in complete and total agreement about the wonderfulness of it all, would anybody mind terribly if I said, in a small and diffident voice, and looking properly humble and repentant, that PLATOON is not a particularly good movie?

Okay, okay, I know. Cut me some slack, will you? Do you think I like being in this position? Do you think this is easy for me? Don't you think I'd like nothing better out of life -- not even 15 minutes alone with Griffin Dunne -- than to be one of the worshipful masses, kneeling at the muddied combat boots of Oliver Stone? I mean, come on now, troops -- you know me better than that by now. If there's a bandwagon within 50 miles of my immediate vicinity, aren't I the very first to climb upon it? Wasn't I the girl who never missed a SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE when it was fashionable, and who can't bring herself to even look in its direction now that it's not? Haven't I seen every single one of John Hughes' movies -- even WEIRD SCIENCE -- at least twice, and am I not firmly and decidedly on record as saying that I have been known to watch both the daytime and nighttime versions of WHEEL OF FORTUNE, sometimes both in the very same day? Honestly, I do think that my credentials as part of the mass mind are pretty fairly impeccable, so you can imagine how uncomfortable I felt, bucking the tide in this unseemly manner. Left entirely to myself, I should have said nothing about the matter, but simply sat quietly back and hoped the whole business would blow over in time (as it did, mercifully, with TERMS OF ENDEARMENT, which occasioned my last serious moment of nonconformity), but greater things than myself are at stake here -- the forces of truth, honesty, courage in the face of opposition, and the simple and immutable fact that, if I hear one more self-styled Hollywood font of wisdom spout off about how this is the greatest American movie since CITIZEN KANE, I am going to be placed in the even more uncomfortable position of throwing up.

It isn't, of course, that PLATOON is really a bad movie. We aren't talking about something like FRIDAY THE 13TH, PART IV or MANDINKO here -- which, actually, is somewhat of a pity, as there's often at least a modicum of humor or interest or entertainment to be derived from a sincerely bad movie. On the contrary, PLATOON is an earnest and well-intentioned effort, decently crafted, and as tooth-grindingly competent as any theatrical production you're likely to see given by the drama department of any of the smaller Midwestern universities, which, it goes without saying, but apparently didn't, is precisely the problem.

All right, now, believe it or not, I do have some slight grasp of the situation, and the forces at play within the situation. I do realize, for instance, that the time was right for a truly realistic view of the Viet Nam experience, partly to counteract all those Rambo and Missin in Actions you see running around loose lately, and partly because, after a suffocatingly long time, we are finally, as a nation, beginning to take the first few fumbling steps towards trying to understand what we did to ourselves, and allowed to happen, during the Viet Nam years. And I in no way want to denigrate Oliver Stone's experiences as a soldier in Viet Nam -- I am certain that what is depicted in PLATOON is, within the confines of movie-making, more or less what happened to him there and, more to the point, the way he viewed it. The trouble is, as a more seasoned film-maker might have told him, utter, unvarnished reality and all the best intentions in the world do not necessarily make for a good, or even watchable, movie.

Stone, in the first place, falls into the trap so common to many aspiring novelists and playwrights. When someone first begins writing fiction or drama or anything else that calls for dialogue, it's perfectly natural to assume that the way to write good dialogue is to copy down, verbatim, what people actually say to each other. What people actually say to each other is, after all, honest and realistic. The trouble is that what people actually say to each other, as anyone who's ever been trapped in one of those restaurants that are high on acoustics and low on edibility of the food can tell you, is also pretty gosh darn boring. In most of our conversations, we repeat ourselves a lot. We say "uh" and "well" and "you know", and make polite social noises at each other, and mouth paragraphs full of discursive extraneous stuff before getting to any real point we might have. This is all fine for face-to-face discussion, because there are other aspects -- body language, for instance, and the fact that most of us only pay strict attention to what others are saying for varying parts of the time, in any event -- involved in our conversations, but it's absolutely deadly in print or on stage. A good writer, one who knows what he or she is doing (and I say this with all the assurance of someone who has written enough reams of the bad stuff, and heard enough of the good stuff to be able to tell, if not produce, the difference), selects from conversations, edits out what's not important, enhances what is, and reproduces the essence, keeping the flavor of real dialogue without exactly reproducing the original. This is no mean feat, and few people can do it at all, let alone do it really well, and Stone just hasn't got the knack of it yet. Worse than that, he carries this lack of judgment -- which is exactly what it is -- into other aspects of his film. Stone seems to have no really firm grasp on the concept of throwing things out, or saving them for some other time. It apparently

never occurred to him to make two movies (I know Stone has been involved in other film projects, but I'm not entirely certain that he does), or that God does not necessarily strike dead those screenwriters who don't automatically include every tiny little thought or experience they've ever had on a particular topic in the script most immediately at hand. As a result, a good (or bad) portion of PLATOON is cluttered and confusing, with too much happening all at once, and then nothing happening at all, with the total effect being rather that of trying to watch three network news broadcasts at the same time.

Which brings us, in a way -- "in a way", hell. It just brings us -- to the other aspect of editing, that of the physical cutting and pasting of the film to produce some sort of, one hopes, at least coherent and, one prays, compelling, whole. It may be a bit unfair to lay this completely at Stone's doorstep -- though, as he bills himself as producer, director, and screenwriter, one imagines that he occasionally stuck his busy nose into the editing room. As a matter of fact, one imagines the harassed film editor trying to beat him to death with a splicer, but that's another story -- but the editing of PLATOON merely adds to the general mess of the thing. Whatever individual personalities the characters may have been left by the screenplay (and here I ought to say a kind word for the poor actors, who do the best they can with what they have, particularly Tom Berringer, who's a marvelous actor in any case, and deserves some sort of medal for ploughing his way through all this with his dignity intact, and Charlie Sheen, who gives every indication of being far more talented than his brother, Emilio Estevez, which is the spur of the moment), are totally subverted to one battle scene after another, horror shot after horror shot is piled one on the other, until there's no horror left, there are no transition scenes, so that we're never completely sure where we are at any given moment, and the lighting for just about

all the film is so dark that it's nearly impossible to see where we are, even if we knew.

Again, I do have some small inkling of what's supposed to be happening here. I know, for example, that this is a film about war, and that films about war normally do contain a few battle sequences. And I can understand -- I guess -- the idea that by underplaying the various personalities of the characters, one is supposed to pick up the impression of the dehumanization, the sameness, of soldiers in combat. But, once again, while this idea sounds good, it doesn't make it on the scene. You see, if you can't tell the difference between one character and another, you can't care about them, and if you don't care about them, you don't care if they're killed or wounded or brutalized, and your battle scenes become just so much fake blood and staged gore, and the horror is lost.

And that, basically, is the crux of the matter. For a film purportedly about the horrors of war -- and the horrors of this War specifically -- PLATOON works out to be little more than a bland documentary. It presents no new insights, has nothing new of interest to say on the subject, and isn't even, as far as it goes, particularly horrifying (note that the word emotions. SHOAH is horrifying; NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET is terrifying). There's nothing here that wasn't shown, and to much greater effect, in any of the thousands of feet of newsreel footage, or the millions of still photographs, that came out of the Viet Nam War. What's a movie re-enactment of the taking of a Vietnamese village to anyone who remembers the sick dread he or she experienced on first hearing about the atrocity that was the Mai Lai massacre? What are the faces of the actors, even the best actors, compared to the face of the Vietnamese man, second's before his murder at the hands of officers of his own country, captured forever in that one terrible, classic photograph? (If you don't know which photograph I mean, you're either under 30, or have remarkable

powers for blocking things out.) In order to hold up at all next to what we saw every evening on television during the war years, a film has to have some new light to shed, or a different way of looking at things, which is why, overall, APOCALYPSE NOW, for all its glaring faults, is a much better film than PLATOON. With its bizarre sequences, its surreal moments, morbid humor, and pervasive sense of self-loathing, APOCALYPSE NOW comes a lot closer to the feeling of those awful years than does PLATOON, with all its self-righteous intent.

About the best that can be hoped for with a movie like PLATOON is that someone who was too young to remember Viet Nam as it was will see it and somehow begin to wonder about things, to want to find out, but even there, that person will be subject to a sort of gyp, because what he or she will be seeing is nothing more than a shell of what it could have been. Maybe discovering something important by means of a mediocre beginning is better than not discovering it at all -- that's a debatable point, but what is not debatable, unfortunately, is that, in its more subtle way, PLATOON is almost as great a falsification of a hideous moment in our collective history as anything dreamed up by Sylvester Stallone.

So there it is, my shameful secret exposed. You see how careful I was just at first, being rather less harsh about the movie than I actually felt, in an effort to cover myself, but it all just got too much for me in the end. I am prostrate with embarrassment, but I simply can't help it -- I thought PLATOON was one wreck of a movie, and I have an idea that all the accolades being heaped upon it are due at least in part to a recent squeamishness about saying anything negative at all about anything even remotely connected with anyone even remotely connected with Viet Nam.

Next month: Anni trashes God, the Easter Bunny and efforts to aid the homeless and sexually abused children.

POET - AID

by P.J. Bellomo

Welcome to the review of the reviewers. In the spirit of the small press, with special attention to the last two front covers of FF, I have addressed the publications of concern in anarchist priority; that is, from little to less little to bigger. I begin with two poetry newsletters, XYZ and MOCKreviewZ, moving then to the magazine SAMISDAT, and finally concluding with the hardcover book POET'S MARKET. Oh yeah, then I'll say a little more.

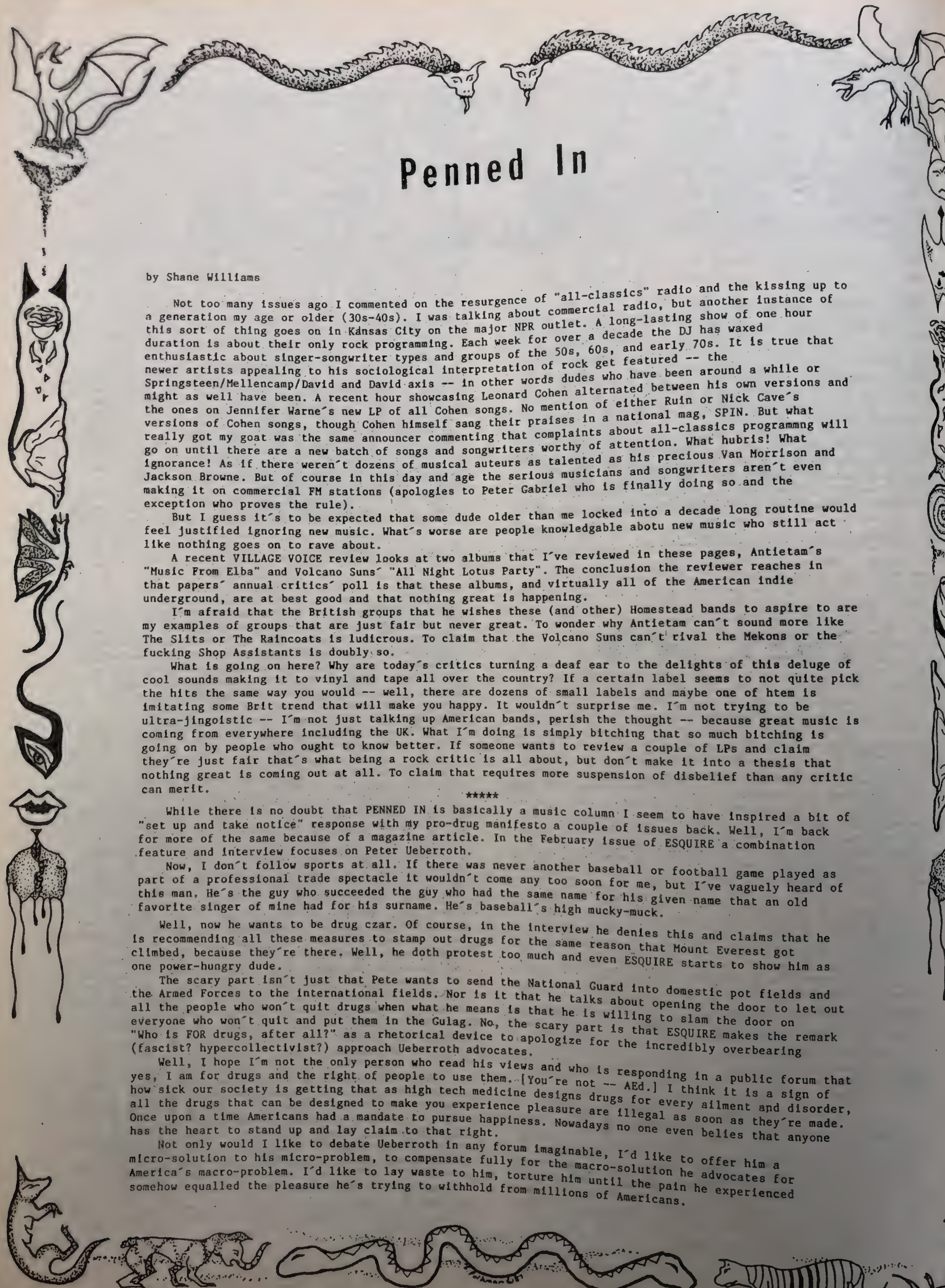
XYZ (\$1 or 44 cents postage for details from PO Box A-3597, Chicago, IL 60690): This newsletter brings us a bimonthly smattering of news from the alternative world of the world of poetry. Although there are occasional bursts from the arenas of visual art and music and such, the focus is a guide for the poet of the small press. Among the reviews of poetry zines there is some very helpful and seemingly up-to-date information on magazines that are overstocked, that have ceased publication, that have no known address, and that, in the publisher's opinion, are simply not worth bothering with. Also, there are a few short poems thrown in; one ("Pebbles at the End of Time" by Kopaska-Merkel) of which keeps you believing in short poetry. 4 stapled pages.

MOCKreviewZ (39 cents postage from 104 Woodgate Ct., Sterling, VA 22170-1630): I mean ya get sooo much for the money; and it's good stuff! Each review, again mainly poetry literature, rings of true insight. They not only give you the punch line, but the better part of the joke: good or bad, you find out why. There are enough editorial comments and random letters to keep things funny and fluid; and the "newz, notes, whateverz" section alone is worth the meager postage. The fetish with "z's," "x's," and "g's" is something which grows warmly on you. 8 stapled pages.

SAMISDAT (\$2 from Merrit Clifton, PO Box 129, Richford, VT 05476): This one has a venomous bite! In POET'S MARKET Judson Jerome refers to Clifton as "a bull in the chinashop of literary publications." Well I say this bull has fangs. You'll find fiction, poetry, and what we're interested in here, reviews. And if it ain't clear, you can't talk of SAMISDAT w/o talking of Clifton. See "The Muck-Raking Racket" in vol. 43, no. 3 to find out what you're up against. When he doesn't say your work is shit, it's probably a positive review; sometimes when he does say it's shit it's a positive review. By the way, FF was not called a piece of shit...56? pages.

POET'S MARKET (\$16.95 + \$2 p&h from 9933 Alliance Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45242): Judson Jerome has weaved PM into a fine handbook for the poet seeking publication. Magazines are catalogued alphabetically with each entry bearing one of five possible ranks: (I) a beginner's market, (II) a general market, (III) a prestige market, (IV) a specialty market, and (V) a consortium of tall buildings programmed to automatically return unsolicited material. Jerome's detailed description of these categories is a good indication of where your work fits in "technically," this dictated by a hierarchical decorum of sorts. As for a "thematic" home, blurbs for each zine are provided in the inspirational words of that zine's editor(s). Although there are no critical reviews of the zine, you at least get an idea of what the editors think they think they're looking for. In addition to the list of poetry publications, there are 13 "close-ups" (like the one on Clifton the Bull) and a number of appended sections which compile information on writing contests, conferences, colonies, etc. Convince your billfold or your librarian; poets, PM is a must. 409 hardcover pages, with 1500 markets listed.

Any poet in search of an audience will benefit from a knowledge of what's out there. MOCKreviewZ was especially appealing to me becuz of the many thorough reviews and the request for nothing but postage and a 6x9 envelope -- unfortunately, XYZ doesn't stand up too well in comparison. I wouldn't buy SAMISDAT solely for its reviews, it's a fiction/poetry zine first and foremost, and on those grounds worthwhile. Lastly, POET'S MARKET will seem to be an indispensable tool after you first get your paws on it. And Mike guessed that the \$16.95 might be a legitimate tax deduction...are there really poets who claim income from writing poetry?



Penned In

by Shane Williams

Not too many issues ago I commented on the resurgence of "all-classics" radio and the kissing up to a generation my age or older (30s-40s). I was talking about commercial radio, but another instance of this sort of thing goes on in Kansas City on the major NPR outlet. A long-lasting show of one hour duration is about their only rock programming. Each week for over a decade the DJ has waxed enthusiastic about singer-songwriter types and groups of the 50s, 60s, and early 70s. It is true that newer artists appealing to his sociological interpretation of rock get featured -- the Springsteen/Mellencamp/David and David axis -- in other words dudes who have been around a while or might as well have been. A recent hour showcasing Leonard Cohen alternated between his own versions and the ones on Jennifer Warne's new LP of all Cohen songs. No mention of either Ruin or Nick Cave's versions of Cohen songs, though Cohen himself sang their praises in a national mag, SPIN. But what really got my goat was the same announcer commenting that complaints about all-classics programming will go on until there are a new batch of songs and songwriters worthy of attention. What hubris! What ignorance! As if there weren't dozens of musical auteurs as talented as his precious Van Morrison and Jackson Browne. But of course in this day and age the serious musicians and songwriters aren't even making it on commercial FM stations (apologies to Peter Gabriel who is finally doing so and the exception who proves the rule).

But I guess it's to be expected that some dude older than me locked into a decade long routine would feel justified ignoring new music. What's worse are people knowledgeable about new music who still act like nothing goes on to rave about.

A recent VILLAGE VOICE review looks at two albums that I've reviewed in these pages, Antietam's "Music From Elba" and Volcano Suns' "All Night Lotus Party". The conclusion the reviewer reaches in that paper's annual critics' poll is that these albums, and virtually all of the American indie underground, are at best good and that nothing great is happening.

I'm afraid that the British groups that he wishes these (and other) Homestead bands to aspire to are my examples of groups that are just fair but never great. To wonder why Antietam can't sound more like The Slits or The Raincoats is ludicrous. To claim that the Volcano Suns can't rival the Mekons or the fucking Shop Assistants is doubly so.

What is going on here? Why are today's critics turning a deaf ear to the delights of this deluge of cool sounds making it to vinyl and tape all over the country? If a certain label seems to not quite pick the hits the same way you would -- well, there are dozens of small labels and maybe one of them is imitating some Brit trend that will make you happy. It wouldn't surprise me. I'm not trying to be ultra-jingoistic -- I'm not just talking up American bands, perish the thought -- because great music is coming from everywhere including the UK. What I'm doing is simply bitching that so much bitching is going on by people who ought to know better. If someone wants to review a couple of LPs and claim they're just fair that's what being a rock critic is all about, but don't make it into a thesis that nothing great is coming out at all. To claim that requires more suspension of disbelief than any critic can merit.

While there is no doubt that PENNED IN is basically a music column I seem to have inspired a bit of "set up and take notice" response with my pro-drug manifesto a couple of issues back. Well, I'm back for more of the same because of a magazine article. In the February issue of ESQUIRE a combination feature and interview focuses on Peter Ueberroth.

Now, I don't follow sports at all. If there was never another baseball or football game played as part of a professional trade spectacle it wouldn't come any too soon for me, but I've vaguely heard of this man. He's the guy who succeeded the guy who had the same name for his given name that an old favorite singer of mine had for his surname. He's baseball's high mucky-muck.

Well, now he wants to be drug czar. Of course, in the interview he denies this and claims that he is recommending all these measures to stamp out drugs for the same reason that Mount Everest got climbed, because they're there. Well, he doth protest too much and even ESQUIRE starts to show him as one power-hungry dude.

The scary part isn't just that Pete wants to send the National Guard into domestic pot fields and the Armed Forces to the international fields. Nor is it that he talks about opening the door to let out all the people who won't quit drugs when what he means is that he is willing to slam the door on everyone who won't quit and put them in the Gulag. No, the scary part is that ESQUIRE makes the remark "Who is FOR drugs, after all?" as a rhetorical device to apologize for the incredibly overbearing (fascist? hypercollectivist?) approach Ueberroth advocates.

Well, I hope I'm not the only person who read his views and who is responding in a public forum that yes, I am for drugs and the right of people to use them. [You're not -- AEd.] I think it is a sign of how sick our society is getting that as high tech medicine designs drugs for every ailment and disorder, all the drugs that can be designed to make you experience pleasure are illegal as soon as they're made. Once upon a time Americans had a mandate to pursue happiness. Nowadays no one even believes that anyone has the heart to stand up and lay claim to that right.

Not only would I like to debate Ueberroth in any forum imaginable, I'd like to offer him a micro-solution to his micro-problem, to compensate fully for the macro-solution he advocates for America's macro-problem. I'd like to lay waste to him, torture him until the pain he experienced somehow equalled the pleasure he's trying to withhold from millions of Americans.

 to go back in time a little bit: a couple of years ago alternative music mag OP folded after 26 alphabetical issues, and out of its ashes arose two similar mags: OPTION and SOUND CHOICE. Not too long after they appeared I wrote a mini-comparison type review -- that was during their first year of publishing. Now they're in their third years, with OPTION up to their 14th issue and SOUND CHOICE coming out with their 8th. Not too surprisingly, these two publications have become rivals, with things heating up between them -- like when the editor at SOUND CHOICE, Dave Ciaffardini, warned his readers that OPTION was in danger of becoming a corporate lackey (in his review of that zine in SC #6, out early in '87). Needless to say, quite a few contributors to SOUND CHOICE were pissed, especially those who also write for OPTION.

Well, I sent Dave some stamps so I could check out that issue. Meanwhile the bureaucrats where I'm incarcerated chose that moment to decide it was illegal to order zines with stamps (something I've been doing for over 5 years) and so I had to write Dave a snivelling letter. Dave responded with an overly generous endorsement of his zines to date. His letter indicated that not only hadn't he forgotten my comparison of SOUND CHOICE and OPTION, but contained a semi-impassioned plea for me to reconsider (well, not really; all of his writing sounds like semi-impassioned pleas). He did compliment me on at least recognizing that the OPTION vs. SOUND CHOICE contest is a serious issue.

So here I am to say that actually I don't think it's a serious issue at all. There is some truth to Dave's complaint that OPTION tends to ignore him, and if they in turn were to contend that he seems overly concerned with their competition and what they are up to, they would be right. It kind of makes sense that an entrepreneurial zine like OPTION would realize that all press is good press and thus ignore a rival. It also goes without saying that all leftists tend to have diarrhea of the mouth and so it's not surprising that Dave goes on and on about any incorrectness he finds and perpetuates the divisiveness that makes left politics the backstabber's paradise that it is (not that Dave is backstabbing; he's man enough to go for the jugular face to face).

So, here's my words of wisdom. Anyone into music at all should subscribe to both SOUND CHOICE and OPTION, submit review copies to both, offer to review material for both, advertise in both, and so on. Who cares which one I prefer or which is "better" in some nonexistent realm of ideals? It ought to be sufficient that both are way worth anyone's time, effort and bucks to get involved in. About the only way any of us could get more insight into these mags than what I've shared with you would be if we could get Dave and OPTION editor Scott Becker into the ring to go 2 falls out of 3. Then maybe we could set up a tag team match with Dave pairing off with Blafra against Scott and John Crawford -- or maybe a free for all with Eugene Chadbourne and El Duce climbing into the fray.

 Mike wants me to answer a reader's question about what punk is. Well, my best and only answer to that is to ask my own question: What is rock? That's the type of question it is to me. Punk is a type of music that just happens to be a type of rock music. Like rock it has divided into a whole bunch of subtypes that are fusing with each other and with music from outside of rock at a rate rapid enough to give pause to analysis by a fifth generation computer. So -- punk is a form of rock and roll and that's final!

FANZINES:

B-SIDE U.S. (\$7/6 issues from PO Box 1387, F. Port Washington, PA 19034): Not the Australian B-SIDE, this is a new Philly tabloid that will probably fill the shoes of defunct TERMINAL an then some. At the moment the coverage is fluffy -- even a Gene Loves Jezebel poster in issue 2 -- but Carol Schutzbank is on board and is dedicated to expanding the coverage to all facets of cool music, not just Brit art/dance stuff. She's already making plenty of headway and meanwhile I don't mind reading about bands like Cabaret Voltaire or Hula at all. So watch this one become as good as NY ROCKER or something.

CHANGING FOR ACCEPTANCE (1240 Box Elder Dr., West Chester, PA 19380): Offering a comp LP of Philly bands for someone who wins a write-in contest on defining "punk rock". A hand-printed xerox zine with short to medium length interviews and short record reviews on hardcore bands. Bands interviewed: Cancerous Growth, No Fraud, Verbal Assault. Room for improvement here but at least they are off their ass doing something -- what about you?

DRACULINA (\$12/4 issues from PO Box 115, Muro, IL 62067): A film mag that contains its editor's own comic strip, so he kind of satisfies both his urges, to do a comic book and edit a film mag, in one fell swoop. It comes off pretty well. I'd say the highlights are the short Joe Bob Briggs interview and the stuff on the Italian gore filmmakers and the interview with Tracey Walter who played the philosopher in REPO MAN. Also lots of bare-breasted babes including Barbara Crampton from RE-ANIMATOR and a guest cartoon by Samish.

ETT NULL ETT (from Nicke Bostrum, Spelmanshojden 24, 172 43 Sundyberg, SWEDEN): Mainly in Swedish, but you can pull out what the bands say in the interviews because they refer to familiar names. Could be a very valuable tool for getting contacts to pursue Swedish garage/psych/billy/punk records. Bands covered in this issue are Voodoo Dolls, Public Vein, Creepshow and more. They seem to be aware of the best of the Aussie stuff but not so as regards America where coverage is on REM, the Unforgiven, and Jason and the Scorchers.

FREE TNT (Stamps from Paul Decolater, 2214 Fairmount Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19130): 80% about gigs that happened in Philly and 20% album reviews. Paul's got a cool reviewing style that makes this worth reading as kind of an extra cool scene report which includes party action as well as club dates. Probably the most interesting bit in here is the story of GG Allin's New Year's gig in Philly where Paul was going to help him play his set but they only made it through to the third song before the usual debacle ensued culminating with GG barely escaping the club with his life. Paul seems to think that the entire ruckus was caused by GG's guitarist kissing a skin chick, but I have it on good authority that GG tried to piss on some skins outside the show; not piss off, piss on!

LA ROCKS (\$20/yr from 6715 Hollywood Blvd. #208, Hollywood, CA 90028): This one finally started coming to me months after I'd written them, though actually I never ordered it, only sent stamps for its editor's earlier rag SCRATCH. At any rate this combines peurile writing with excellent photo coverage of LA's glam-metal scene (and other "Hot rock") and complete gig, concert and club listings. Free in LA. I guess it's worth the money to someone who wants to keep up with LA news or planning on visiting periodically. A tabloid with plenty of pix.

NEW REGIME (Stamps from PO Box 1095, Lewistown, PA 17044): A hodgepodge of local news, political shit, collage, editorials, reviews -- even an inclusion for the reader to mail to MTV to request more alternative music. All on colored paper so it looks pretty good at that and is worth more than just stamps but these lefties who put it out will probably be happy to send it for postage only if they have any copies remaining.

NEW YORK GRIME (SASE from Mike N., 51 Longview Rd., Port Washington, NY 11050): A one-sheeter calling itself expanded because in this issue both sides are printed. Definitely full of local news with a pretty complete calendar of upcoming music. An APRC member, a photo of the gang is reprinted on the back, and people molested by bouncers are asked to join together to take action (probably publicizing the incidents). Decent one-pager for sure.

NOISE, NOISE, NOISE (\$10.90/4 issues from Tim Stegall, 1025 E. 5th St., Alice, TX 78332): A definite PHUDD influence here -- Tim being a 21-year-old who doesn't like thrash, metal or peace punk, teh emphasis being on classic punk. In this issue that means D.O.A., Dead Boys, and The Monkees...A Dooley cover and lots of super miniaturized reviews round this out. I for one won't be missing any issues but I find it ironic that a guy who worships Johnny Thunders, Dickies, et al. is looking for band members but doesn't want any druggies!

PHUDD (About \$3 from Chris Stigliano, 714 Shady Ave., Sharon, PA 16146): A true star, a wizard, a fave. Chris Stig is man enough to admit that rock and roll saved his life, and when he editorializes how stupid it is for people to say that punk is dead or was a failure, he and I are on the same wavelength. Musicwise, he covers the old and the new -- if it qualifies by his pretty exacting standards. The cover bands are Blue Ash and Laughing Hyenas. A real scoop in this issue is the Byron Coley interview (our generation's premiere rock critic) who, if anyone cares, slugs Husker Du's "Candy Apple Grey, Swa's "Sex Doctor", DK's "Bedtime for Democracy", Jazz Butcher's new one, Robert Cray's new one, and the reissue of the first two Wire LP's as the worst records he heard in '86 -- though he readily admits that he never even hears the worst records. Other highlights in this issue are the Suicide retrospective and the relative dearth of TV/wrestling bs. In my top 10.

PHILLY (\$1 from Jesse Townley, 111 Rochelle Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19128): As the title implies this one covers what is going on in Philadelphia, at least in this premiere

issue. They are open to contributors so it wouldn't be inconceivable for them to be interested in what's going on in your town. Besides the local news the highlight is definitely the art, with Luna Ticks having her recent "Toxic Gas" strip reprinted and another 8 frames where she experiments stylistically, and a couple of way cool strips from Hollywood's finest, Carrie. If PHILLY keeps printing cool art by the pageload and expands its music coverage this could be the start of something big. Bands interviewed this ish: McRad, Electric Love Muffins, and Ruin.

RAD ACID (Stamps from Triple Angel, 455 S. 78 E. Ave, Tulsa, OK 74112): Kind of a minimalist zine. This is stripped to the bones and thus might not be meaty enough for you but I say we ought to support efforts of this nature where teens on drugs have their say. Look for my LA scene report if Triple doesn't trip out and eat it thinking it's rad blotter.

SILEWNT SCREAM (\$1 from 2201 N. Plains, Austin, TX 78758): Moshin' zine with a "screw you" attitude and great art to back it up. Music coverage is almost incidental, but it's there with interviews with Christian Death and Excel and No Fraud. This zine has the hate edge, and provides plenty of addresses for like-minded zines and artists.

YOUR FLESH #12 (\$3 from PO Box 3107, Minneapolis, MN): As great as this zine is the cover art is still the greatest thing. The front cover is by S. Clay Wilson with one of his famous "demons" fingering a punk rock mama; the inner cover is Dave Deuteronomy's latest in his continuing anti-church series. Inside are some comix, some interviews (Pussy Galore, Sonic Youth, Halo of Flies, Vile, Television Before Christ, Hickoids, and Killslug), and the meat: lots and lots of record reviews of punk, garage, and metal records. One of my tip ten (which probably includes about 15 or 20 zines!).



Brendan Donegan, THE VOICE OF ZEWAM:

- A) To spread the message(s) of ZEWAM AMOLA
 - B) To open up "Shared Backgrounds"
 - C) To attempt to wreck the multirama flavorwhip that's homogenizing, deodorizing, desensitizing this great nation of ours
 - D) To have fun
- Ultimate Fanzine Fantasy: An interview of Gamal Abdel Nasser by Annette Funicello.

(S.T.B.) Prince (of Pieces), THREADBARE:

I produce Threadbare for the purpose of printing material that would, likely as not, never get printed. Some of my contributors send things that need to be spread around. But all in all, I enjoy getting my name put on conspiracy watch lists. Pray for slack.

I feel that I and others have no other means of public expression or outlet. Some things are otherwise ignored by the General Public. Without things like the Subs, we'd all be lost with only PEOPLE magazine.

Steve Sikora, THE LETTER EXCHANGE:

Why publish? Your cover illo of a low-circulation fellow blowing up the big circulation folks got me wondering where I and THE LETTER EXCHANGE fit in. With about 3,000 subscribers now we're getting closer to the border line between us and them. We may even have crossed it by now, in fact, although my checkbook and stomach tell me I'm nowhere near to making a living off this venture yet.

Whether big or small, though, publishing raises a few issues for me which may not jibe with your own concerns, or with those of most of the publishers represented in FACTSHEET FIVE. The Letter Exchange (LEX for short) is devoted to a non-public form of literature, to non-publication. Letters thrive on privacy, on a one-to-one connection between two people, each of whom gets to play both parts, writing as well as reading in roughly equal measure. Letter-writing proposes an alternative to all forms of publishing, both large and small, conventional and maverick.

We've yet to come up with a catchy slogan for LEX, but if and when we do it will carry the banner of privacy. "Let's take to each other instead of to the world." Or something similar.

So the question of why publish leads me to some odd answers and no end of foot shuffling. We'd all be better off without our zeal to appear in print, I think. A one-way flow of words is always troublesome, and publication involves

nothing but such one-way passage. Whether the periodical be large or small and no matter what its content, a few speak in its pages while dozens, hundreds, or thousands of other people only listen. This can't be good, I think. We all need to get in on the writing side. Up with letters, down with periodicals.

Yet while waving this strange flag for non-publication, I also keep publishing my own magazine. The contradiction continues. Can you figure it out?

/*I can't figure it all out, but I do have two observations to offer. The first is that letter-writing and zine-publishing are not exclusive activities, such that one inevitably destroys the other. You and I and lots of other people manage to do both. The other thing is that even publishing isn't strictly one-way: I do hear back from my readers, and their input has helped immensely in charting the course of FF.*/

John Kurluk, MYSTIC PRESS:

I publish to give variety to the paranormal fields, let the Christians know that Witchcraft is alive and doing very well, hope to turn a few Popes over in their tombs, and stir up a few brooms to go flying. Also to inform the public that the religion of Wicca is authentic since it started with the cave man and mama. They were the first chemist and pharmacist back when they threw a few wild plants into the pot to heat up some kick-a-poo juice. I will say that we witches and warlocks do not fly on brooms, 'cause today we have the Concorde jet.

Anyone can publish anything if they put their mind, soul, money, and ass into it, since the First Amendment grants us this so-called freedom. I also publish because when the Christian door-knockers come to my catacomb and give me their "Repent Now" brochures, I got something to give 'em in return. On the serious side, I don't make a dime, but I do make a lot of good friends (and some enemies) which I love and enjoy, one and all. I enjoy boggling minds and stimulating the masses with the mysteries of the paranormal, although I know that the human race is already totally confused anyway. After all, we have Ronald Ray-Gun, Jerry Far-Well, and the KKK.

Blessed Be, your favorite Gypsy Wiccan.

Tosh, THE DANGEROUS TIMES:

Communications/education is the last hope/saving grace of a society set up against the mindwall of antilove/pollution/culture, y'know what I mean? And, kids, don't forget to recycle! Also, if I'm god and you're god and he's god and she's god, don't you think we ought to read good magazines?

 TOM GILL, TOM GILL PREDICTS:

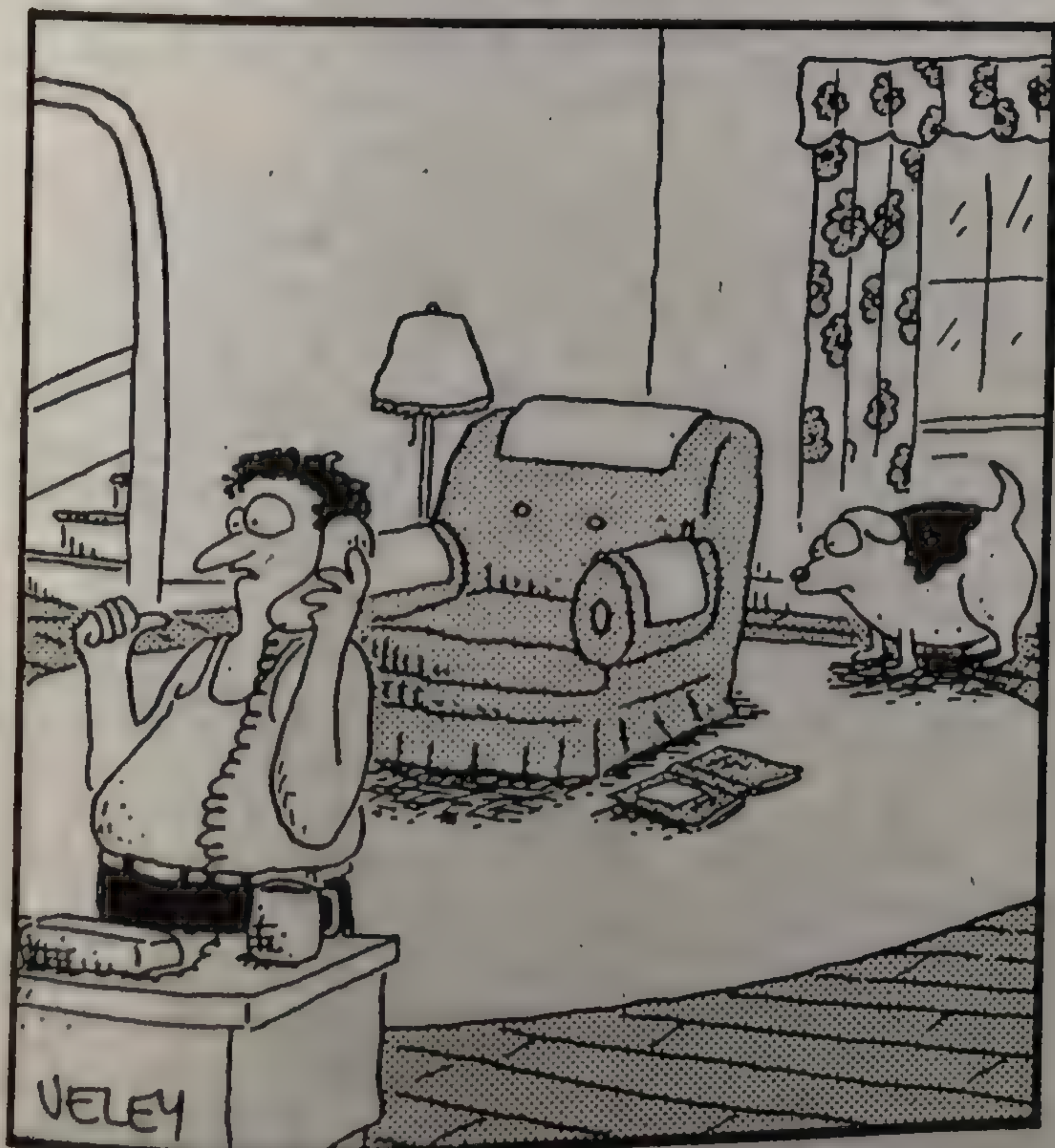
"Why publish?" you ask. For me, it's a creative outlet. As a man who works as a scientist but whose real calling in life is writing, one needs to find an outlet for one's creative musings. It's also a way to get my name known, to get exposure and feel like a worthy human being, to get people to talk about me, and to network with others. Why I decided to publish in the first place was because my high school Physics teacher dared me to, and that's something that I couldn't pass by. It's just kind of mushroomed since then.

 ERIC, RAW POGO ON THE SCAFFOLD

Mainly to get things off my chest and rave on and on about the scene back home (the Lehigh Valley, Pa.) because, even though I'm not really as main a mover as 2 or 3 years ago, I still love that scene I helped create -- I don't want to see it die (blatant localism rules!) but lately (since starting college) my motives have been quite odd: When I'm doing this thing my head is cleared of the dark, ominous cloud of depression that seems to have suddenly developed in my life....It's wierd, but it's better than drug-induced happiness. I publish so more people get exposed to the hot sounds of the L.V. and to keep my engine running, but most importantly, so people will write me!!!

 DONNA KOSSY, FALSE POSITIVE:

I began by color xeroxing my collages, and making the color xeroxes into postcards. This way, I could distribute my art to people I didn't know, and possibly achieve a diminutive version of fame. As the color xerox postcard fad waned, so did my hopes of turning my late-twentieth century hobby into a career. I also started to notice that every aspiring art punkoid in San Francisco (where I then lived) had his own "Zine". None of those I saw seemed that great, and I knew I could do better. What's more I could better publicize my own work, as well as feature the works of those I liked, if I joined this craze. With a magazine I could address intellect as well as the goofiness already emanating from the postcards. It's also allowed me to collaborate -- I illustrate the writings of others. Last but not least publishing FALSE POSITIVE gets me listed in FACTSHEET FIVE.



"Look, you're the scientist. If you say it's a wandering Black Hole, that's fine with me. All I know is that it's behind my favorite easy chair, it just swallowed Skipper's doggie-bed, and I want it out of here!"

Turning Over New Leaves of Grass

by Kerry Wendell Thornley

April 11th is National Pliers Day in Costa Rica. Said the July 16th, 1984 issue of TIME magazine (p. 40): "That happy nonchalance may, however, be a luxury for which Costa Rica will have to pay a price." True enough. Discordians are already contemplating making Pliers Day an INTERNATIONAL holiday. Why, we've been asking ourselves, should Costa Rica have all the fun?

Was there something mysterious about what I said about Labor Day and May Day? Maybe only an anarchist, or a Pole, can identify with the problem.

SUNDAY

Today I feel what a radio station in Fort Lauderdale called the symptoms of death: shortness of breath, difficulty in moving, mental sluggishness...Actually, I think it is only a cold, though, that I'm fighting off with Vitamin C. On the bus last night I suddenly just became unbearably tired. So, since there are advantages to living out of backpacks, as well as inconveniences, I climbed off at the next stop and found a cranny to crash in. I woke up this morning still tired. This afternoon I took a nap in the park. I don't feel as tired as before. I still feel like a zombie, though.

SHAMAN SHADOWS

I almost always think of American Indians whenever I'm stuffing tobacco in my pipe. Such a historically logical association is, for me, unusual. My pipe is the most magical thing in my post-mystical life, for that reason. I feel like an old medicine man -- maybe because of that book I read about Rolling Thunder at Louise's in 1977. For him his pipe was an essential tool.

With the sole exception of the late Mamie Yokum, women never smoke pipes. I remember a movement afoot maybe ten years ago to make pipes for women -- painted brightly with jewels in them. It never took hold. Cigarettes cause much more cancer than pipes and cigars -- in fact, Adrian Rain thinks it is the paper that must cause the lung cancer. Conclusion: I guess the cigarette lobby is more powerful than women's liberation and/or the pipe and cigar lobby.

THE OLD RUGGED TAO

The way it is, as opposed to the way words indicate things are. All organic and sticking out at the ends, where a straight line, for a traveler, is almost never the shortest distance between two points. The difference between a canal and a stream or a street and a trail or a map and a territory. Conceptuality pulls us in one direction; observation pulls us in another. ("The trees," said Chang-Tzu, "invite their own cutting down.") Most of us look with our minds and memories instead of with our eyes. Most of us, as he said, "Seek what others seek and so wind up with what others possess, possessing not our own souls." To me it just these days applies: If you don't understand why someone requests an action of you, don't perform it. I don't understand the reasons why anyone is acting as people act these days -- going to enormous efforts to be strenuously indirect, as if they are hiding something from someone. They have already lost their freedom; what are they trying to protect? It reminds me of an article I once wrote in satire of INNOVATOR pieces: "Living in Dungeons for Freedom and Profit".

So I am cooperative when I feel like being cooperative; since very few people cooperate with me in supplying the information I want, I seldom feel cooperative.

So the Tao I follow is that of material reality without taking into account many symbols about it, since the symbols that prevail are not symbolic of the war or the lords of the land.

That is the way it will remain. If I have acquired no other character trait in the past nine years, I have at least learned how to be stubborn.

My Taoist Yoga -- my Discipline -- these days is learning to ignore the irrelevant in communications -- a hard, steep path.

The sooner people understand that I'm becoming deaf to their threats and bribes and gossip and other distractions, the better off everyone -- or at least nearly everyone -- will be.

Sometimes I wonder what people will say to their children in answer to the question: Why didn't you do something to prevent the Holocaust (of starvation)?

We are no different than the Germans under Hitler. We look at reality in such a way as not to comprehend the systematic mass murder. Why does TIME magazine say there are starving people in Africa? It hasn't rained there in a long time. Putting aside the little-known fact that there is technology to make it rain or not rain anywhere, there of course wasn't a word about the IMF or land monopoly.

THE NEMISES OF THE SEXUAL REVOLUTION

At some point in the early Eighties, as I understand matters, the Jesuits discovered the Catholic Church was being subjected by the Russians to heavy doses of mind control. At that time they're said to have withdrawn their support from Marxist causes -- previous to which they'd been supporting Nazis -- and thrown it behind the laissez-faire capitalists. This, of course, has created numerous enemies of laissez-faire capitalism -- since wherever the Jesuits go they take with them, among other things, an elaborate blackmail network called in intelligence community slang "Water".

Blackmail is like drugs. The Mafia never supports the legalization of marijuana -- nor of any other drug, nor of prostitution.

Blackmailers depend upon a harsh and retributive state with a multiplicity of laws. If they are, in addition, sexual blackmailers, they want lots of anti-sex laws and, moreover, extremely repressive social attitudes prevailing everywhere.

There was a time in the middle Seventies, according to Glen Duncan, when it was being discovered that sexual blackmail was in many cases no longer working. People who were entrapped into what in former times were regarded as compromising situations just shrugged off threats to reveal that information and went on about their business.

Klovenbach, the new General of the Jesuits, who was elected after Pedro Arrupe suffered paralysis, is allegedly Water. Maintaining the power of their sexual blackmail networks seems to be one of the top priorities of the Jesuits at this time. A few years ago most of the adult bookstores and x-rated theaters in Atlanta were closed down by Republican Miller. The Republican Party is notorious for backing Jesuit organized crime.

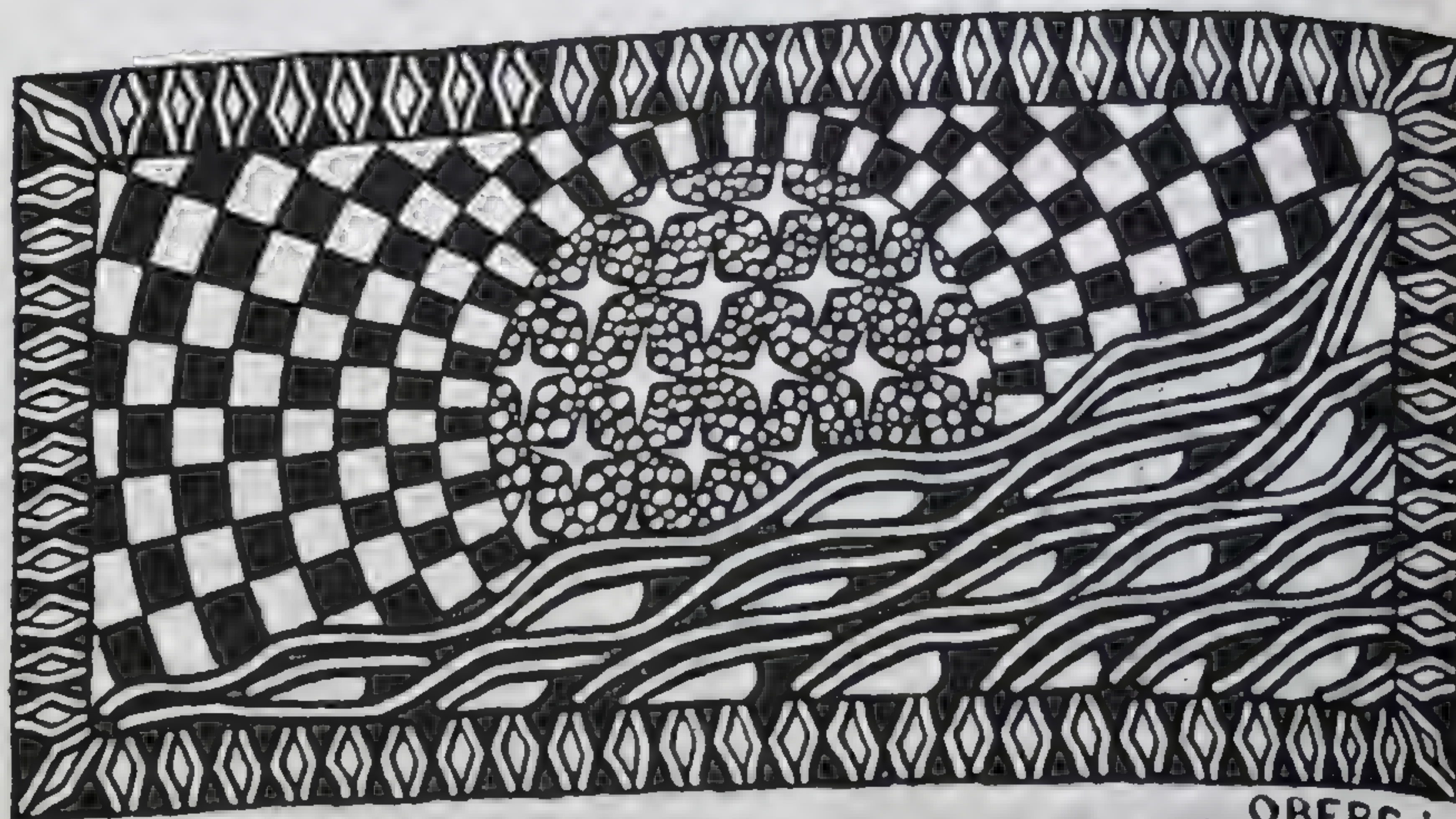
Everywhere I have gone, for the past many years, there has been constant pressure on me to behave as much like a conservative Prussian as possible. Jesuits have consistently been blamed for this nonsensical diversion. That is what we call the gentle art of making enemies.

My own position has gone from one of support for the Jesuits to opposition, and to opposition of anyone they tend to support, also.

I don't want to make such an issue of sexual freedom -- a cultural matter -- that discussion of heavier political and economic issues is precluded. I will, however, continue to resist people so indifferent to justice that they are willing to irresponsibly neurologically cripple a minority of the population by spreading emotional plague just to maintain power over the agents of their own organization.

[AEditor's Note: This is the continuation of Kerry's work that we started printing in FF20. The manuscript disappeared mysteriously during the next quarter, forcing the publication of excerpts from POSSIBLY SUBVERSIVE FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS in FF21. However, since then the Dogs From Sirius have unearthed the one we started with, so things are back to normal. The rest of PSFA will appear after TONLOG has been finished. All clear?]

POETRY



They say that too many cooks spoil the broth, but I seem to have picked up a couple of new poetry reviewers this issue. Now all you poets can have it your way, as someone or other once said. If you want your stuff reviewed by Alison Meyers (AM) or Flowers in Granite (FG), send it on down to Everyday Books, PO Box 806, Willimantic, CT 06226, marked clearly that it's stuff for review in FACTSHEET FIVE. If, on the other hand, you want it reviewed by the Aeditor (MG) or P.J. Bellomo (You'll find P.J.'s first contribution in a box in the BOOKS section of this issue), well, just send it to the usual address in Rensselaer. I expect that's enough confusion for now, so let the reviews begin!

THE AMERICAN QUATRA FLYER #4 (\$2/4 issues from Spare Change Poetry Press, 2115 Clearview NE, Massillon, OH 44646): As the title suggests, this is a two-sided page of poems, each with four lines. Issue #4 represents four poets: Mary Ernestine O'Dell, Colleen M. Pearson, Sophia E. McElheny and Donna Clippinger. In their haiku-like brevity, the poems do not shout but, rather, understate. McElheny's images have movement and good visual impact. (AM)

ANEMONE Vol. III #2 (\$2 from PO Box 369, Chester, VT 05143): A tabloid of mostly poetry with a few short stories and some nice graphics. This is the "Special Women's Issue", and there's a sort of human rights issue planned next. Most of the themes here are nurturing in one way or another, pictures of the woman as mother or wife or the only one who cares. Of these I most appreciated Mary Jean Nealon's understated "Those 1940s Women", an appreciation of, essentially, "woman's work". Sharyn Wolf's "The Meeting" is a more modernistic appreciation of a relationship gone sour, also a standout. (MG)

ANIMAL MAGNETISM, by Jennifer Kidney (\$3.50 from Wowapi, 5746 Oram, Dallas, TX 75206): A very nice chapbook of poems that are, not surprisingly, all about animals. For the most part this means close observation of the natural world, though in a few pieces, such as "Birdwatching in My Sleep", a supernatural element creeps in. Kidney's voice is one of hope for the animals, sometimes an apocalyptic hope as in "The New Landlords", the very moving piece that opens the collections, and sometimes one of just quiet surviving hope, as in "Feast Of Light". This is much easier on the psyche than most of the poetry we receive, gentle, full of warmth, easy to read (but not sanitized; some of these animals die) and overall a pleasure. (MG)

BOGG 56 (\$1.50 from John Elsberg, 422 N. Cleveland St., Arlington, VA 22201): "A Journal of North American and British Writing" with George Cairncross as the British editor. High marks for Ann Menebroker's well-crafted and unique poem, "White Dress". Two other interesting poems are J. Wesley Clark's "Initiation" and Randy Klutt's "New Mall Restaurant". As in a previous issue, BOGG 56 prints readers' feedback and

provides the useful service of reviewing other literary mags and small press publications. I have a prejudice against poems about poets and poems about writing poetry, though, and for my taste, this issue devotes too much space to this kind of fetishizing. (AM)

CRAWLSPACE 12 (6x9 envelope & 30 cents postage from 908 W. 1st St., Belvidere, IL 61008): The No Theme Issue. The poems are a mixed bag, ranging from interesting to really good to disjointed and incomprehensible. The best poem in this issue is by Kyle Laws ("On Starless Nights") and alone worth the modest price or a good deal more for that matter. If you like poetry and you're interested in what new poets are saying, give it a shot. (FG)

DAZE OF SUMMER, by Verna Doherty (75 cents from 1501 NE 102nd St., Seattle, WA 98125): This is sort of "What I thought about on my summer vacation", a series of poems written on the bus and elsewhere by Verna. Much of it seems to be an attempt to catch emotions on paper, personal ones, and as such it is only mildly successful. The imagery is personal enough as to lose some meaning to the observer. In the closing poem, Verna laments, "Is this winding snake poetry?" and I have to say that it is, cryptic though it may be; the overall chapbook still has some effect on the reader -- and that's what poetry is for. (MG)

DIZZY SPELL, by Philip Athans (50 cents (?) from Alternative Fiction & Poetry, 7783 Kensington Ln., Hanover Park, IL 60107): A small pamphlet disguised as a poem. What it really looks like, though, is graffiti. Words are typed or scrawled in odd positions on the page. Any meaning is thoroughly hidden. (MG)

DREAMS AND NIGHTMARES #11 (44 cents postage for sample or \$5/yr from David C. Kopaska-Merkel, 3 Turnberry Ave., Toronto, ONT M6N 1P6, CANADA): A self-described "amateur magazine of fantastic and speculative poetry." Physically, issue eleven is not what is generally known as a magazine; it is four one-sided sheets stapled together at the corner.

Kopaska-Merkel's chatty editorializing is unusual but perhaps appropriate for the paper's informal format. I have to say, though, that I can't connect with the vague and abstract writing in this particular issue (Glenn Sheldon's "To Win a Packet Of Seeds, Name This Poem" excepted). I like, however, the editor's notion of giving "amateurs" a chance. (AM)

EVERYBODY GO HOME!, by Rane Arroyo (SASE & a stamp from PO Box A-3597, Chicago, IL 60690): The poet seems divided in what he/she wants to say. One of the directions is interesting, the other sounds more like some internal argument the poet needs to settle in another way. Good handling of language and a genuine poetic imagination. (FG)

FEH! #2 ("generous donations of large sums of cash" from Sineon Stylites, PO Box 82, Mt. Royal, Que. H3P 3B8, CANADA): The cover price is 25 cents. I was a bit worried that this "journal of odious poetry" would be an exercise in illegible scatology, but in fact it proves to be better done than most of the classier journals. In other words, I laughed my fool head off at these poems from the likes of John Bennett, Ethelred Skudge Naggernunk, and Andrew Savage ("I don't know what it was, maybe the electricity from the fairy lights but on xmas day/our tree/climbed out of its bucket/and went for us...."). A real treat, complete with disgusting limericks. (MG)

FINE MADNESS Fall 1986 (\$4 from PO Box 15176, Seattle, WA 98115-0176): The first impression is that the production is impeccable: a fat digest with typesetting, a textured cover, a nice look and feel. Inside, though, this professionalism seems to lead to a sort of detachment, with most of the poets writing of gods or translating dead poets' works or cryptically describing...something. Kay Deeter's "Body to the Soup" falls into this as a welcome bit of emotion, expressed between two human-scale people, and her other poems are similarly clear and direct. Unfortunately, her poems are published posthumously, leaving the dead to outshine the living in this effort. (MG)

THE HOUSE, by John Eberly (75 cents from Mumbles, PO Box 8312, Wichita, KS 67208): Another hybrid form, this would seem to be a minichapbook: eight pages that fit easily in one hand, with a very nice graphic design. The poems here are short and compressed, eschewing normal grammar and leaving out essential parts of speech, but conveying sort of condensed feelings nonetheless. Fragments of John's consciousness are forever pinned on the page awaiting our inspection. (MG)

I'M NOT BETTING ON THIS HAND, by Russ Harper (\$2 from Death Press, PO Box 76, Rockford, TN 37853): A chapbook of poems with manic illustrations by J. Swift. This one just didn't do it for me: the poems jump from image to image with no connection between, or assert an emotion without making the reader feel it. I tried thinking of them as punk rock lyrics instead, and that worked better, but is hardly a reason to buy the book. (MG)

NEW WORD #2 (50 cents from Randy Moore, Earth Studio, Rte. 3, Box 133, Penyville, MO 63775): Very poor production, type nearly invisible, but if you can get past that, not entirely without merit. Two poets with promise are Mark Rich ("How Mystery Begins") and Margaret Simon ("Aftermath"). Otherwise, the poetry is immature -- mere tricks with words, images cold and lifeless because they have not been experienced. (FG)

FEATURED REVIEW

THE NAME IS DILLINGER, by Todd Moore (The first of 13 volumes of a long poem, "Dillinger". Perfect bound, offset, \$4. Complete 13-volume boxed set: \$45 prepaid. From Kangaroo Court Publishing, 1505 State, Erie, PA 16501): THE NAME IS DILLINGER is the first of 13 volumes containing Todd Moore's ambitiously long poem, "Dillinger". In choosing to write in the first person (that of Dillinger, himself), Moore has set himself a hard task. His is a challenging artistic choice that sometimes creates problems, but at other moments, makes the poem work both as soliloquy and bio-mythology. How can Moore write convincingly as Dillinger, the highly mythologized gangster? He must create a voice that seems to be uniquely Dillinger's -- a language that reflects and somehow makes familiar to us a strange personal history lived beyond conventional boundaries. Through most of the poem, we do hear Dillinger speaking; Moore establishes him as a man of sensations, rather than intellect, operating in a world of visual, self-referential, almost primal images:

I'm dillinger
moving behind my headlights
across the prairie
moving in the darkness of my clothes
moving in the brick & wood buildings...
...moving my banged & bloody breath ahead of
the jellied air split with someone's bullet...

Moore occasionally runs into difficulties when he describes a scene from the outside in, as if the speaker, Dillinger, is looking at a glossy photograph of himself: "dillinger holding flashes off diamond stick pin/ long slivers of light playing like knives around me..."

At other times, Moore allows Dillinger's voice to slip away and another language (the poet's own) to emerge. In these lines Dillinger speaks of his father in an elaborate metaphor too intricately constructed, too far removed from daily experience for our man of primary sensations:

...& I smashed my way through
snow walls toward the sun & burned w/ all my
blood & electricity while
you turned your orbit to the ice of space your
white planet plunging
through night and time...

This first volume of "Dillinger" is less a chronicle of events than a series of impressions recorded in a search for self-definition. Dillinger sifts through images collected throughout childhood and manhood, sorting the left from the right, looking for an essential, internal strength that is different from the virility derived from social empowerment and self-mythology. Dillinger's search is punctuated by revelations of vulnerability, even as he glories in the legends. Moore demonstrates that the private and public selves cannot be separated and, indeed, that one defines and informs the other.

In the end, THE NAME IS DILLINGER strikes me as an originally written, a poetically written, personal monologue. The poem is, however, oddly ahistorical in a way that a narrative about such a larger-than-life figure should not be. How was Dillinger a product of and a producer of his culture and times? Dillinger, like all the rest of us, did not emerge transcendently. Though an individual, he was as well a socially-constructed being. Perhaps the subsequent volumes of this interesting poem will reveal a larger historical layer. (AM)

NO #6 (\$2 from Johnson/Meyer, 826 W. Belmont #3F, Chicago, IL 60657): "Deviation" is the single word on the ink-spattered cover, and that amply sums up the contributions inside, the writers cutting away at the cancerous edges of our society with scalpels made of words. From Dennis Gulling's "How Matt Whitman Died" to Bart Solarczyk's "Poem For My Mailman", these are depressing but energetic works. A few short prose pieces serve to break up the tempo a bit. My favorite here is H.P. Felgenhauer's "I don't Get Problems - I Give Them" that starts out "Dear Landlord: You Asshole:". (MG)

THE PHOTOGRAPHER, by Paul Yerima Cohen (50 cents (?) from Yerima Press, PO Box 13077, Gainesville, FL 32604): A single poem printed in a miniature pamphlet, the poetic analog of the minicomic. The poet strives for deep social meaning and falls short, leaving the impression that he's a nice guy who hopes for world peace but doesn't write well enough to encourage it. (MG)

THE SEARCH FOR A SILICONE SOUL (6x9 envelope & 39 cents postage from Mockersatz Zrox, 104 Woodgate Ct., Sterling, VA 22170): Hard to describe -- disconnected phrases designed to create images; mood -- doesn't really work for me, although I'm a sympathizer. (FG)

SELECTED OOZE #4 (\$2 from Artists & Writers Underground, c/o Sarris Bookmarketing, 125 E. 23rd St., #300, New York, NY 10010): This may be the quintessential New York poetry zine. I look out my window and see birds and trees; the SO crew apparently sees junkies and hookers and puke in the streets, and it's gotten to them. Very powerful writing, particularly in pieces like David Huberman's "Calling All Johns" and Andrew Gettler's "Throwdown", but almost universally downers. Liberally illustrated with collage and cutup works of domination and depression. (MG)

THE SLAPDASH HACKERY FACTORY #3 (39 cent SASE from Carl Bettis, PO Box 32631, Kansas City, MO 64111): The start of a Seven Deadly Sins Festival, this issue concentrates on Pride & Wrath; next comes Envy. This isn't all poetry; the Association for Ontological Anarchy, for example, sneaks a strange broadsheet in. Wrath seems to be a more popular topic than Pride, but it's a close thing. I liked Sharon Eiker's "Is One Body Count"; it seemed to be a more finished piece than most of the other poems, although admittedly Carl is more interested in energy than polish. (MG)

SONGS OF DEATH, by Bad Boy (\$2 (?) from Squash Press, PO Box 210208, San Francisco, CA 94121): Bad Boy has tackled a difficult subject -- death, mainly by cancer -- and done so well enough that this is a hellish book to read. The stark all-caps typography gives one the same feel as the antiseptic lights of a hospital ward, and the poems themselves are the anguished cries of death, cries both from the dying and those left behind. Fatalism, resignation, anger, despair -- the poet rings the changes on the emotions of death, and the reader is left breathless. (MG)

SPITS, by John M. Bennett (\$1 from Luna Bionte Prods., 137 Leland Ave., Columbus, OH 43214): No, I must be too old for this. I don't think deliberately spelling words wrong is cute -- I'm not interested in tricks with words nor poems about spitting. (FG)

VISCERA STEAKS, by Adam Eisenstat (\$3 from 716 S. Linden Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15208): Comes complete with a rejection letter from the Squirrel Hill Poetry Workshop, claiming that these are "really not poems, more diatribes which is not what poetry is all about." Well, fuckem, they're wrong. This is poetry, and some of it is damned good. Take "New Cliches: the Route to Immortality", a very funny piece that answers the question "Where do Space Shuttle jokes come from?", or "Notes on the Destruction of Small Appliances", just as much poetry as performance art is art. Sure, some of the poems about raising cattle do get sort of frothy around the edges, but that doesn't make them any less real. Who says poetry needs to be nicey-nicey and fun? (MG)

YOUR 2 P.M. BEER AND MY HEAD FULL OF NOTHING, by Brad Johnson (\$1 from No Press, c/o Johnson/Meyer, 826 W. Belmont #3F, Chicago, IL 60657): These poems are grounded in working,

drinking and surviving. Johnson observes himself and others with a fairly compassionate eye, recording hardships in terms of the economic and political realities of working class life. What I like about Johnson's writing is his clear vision, his sincerity and his solidarity with others. Though he identifies sources of oppression, he rejects resignation and cynicism. His poems, though occasionally despairing, are not without humor and, in general, find a way to fight back. (AM)

PUBLISHER SPOTLIGHT

Received a batch of stuff distributed by Taproot, published by Burning Press. The binding and graphics are uniformly imaginative and carefully executed. Write Taproot, PO Box 18817, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118.

Checks payable to Bob Drake.

ABRASIONS: POEMS FOUND AND BY LUIZI (\$2): My reaction to this visually stimulating (sandpaper wrappers, brightly colored stock, lots of well produced graphics) is mixed; some of Luiz's politics work for me, some do not. Generally, the original verse, such as the anti-military, anti-nationalism "Prayer For America", offers effective commentary. A notable exception to this is an untitled poem (the first line is "truck won't start") in which Luiz assumes the voice of a (presumably) little-educated racist trying to repair a truck. The speech of this persona is problematic, encouraging the reader to equate racism with the syntax of "uneducated" language and the efforts of manual labor. By extension, by virtue of what it does not criticize, this poem lets institutionalized, systemic racism off the hook. Further, the poem reinforces, becomes a vehicle for, the very classism that is racism's indispensable counterpart. In a different way, the political subtext of the poem "terrorist" also presents a problem. In this second poem, the writing springs from a subject position familiar to us all -- that of the mainstream media. In failing to be critical or to analyze the popularized version of the value-laden term "terrorist", the poem helps to perpetuate the prevailing ideology. While there are selections to value in ABSTRACTIONS (the found poem "Jellyfish Swarm Shuts Nuclear Plant" is just one entertaining and edifying example), the chapbook must be read with a politically critical eye. (AM)

BIG MACHINES AND WHEELED THINGS, by Michael Salinger (\$2.50): "The Man In #3" and "My Cousin's Wedding" are the two poems most to my liking. They are, on the surface, simply constructed -- yet they are eloquent and humane. Their lines remain with the reader in a way that the more complicated (not, necessarily, more complex) images of MACHINE's other poems do not. (AM)

JUNKYARD READING anthology (\$1.50): Interestingly, the best poem in the book -- Jim Coe's "Patricia Spits" -- was censored from the original, Plain Press edition. I imagine the word "incest" triggered this bit of fascism. Thank you, Burning Press, for reprinting this poem, as well as some other good stuff: Roy Bentley's "The Young American Wrestles His First Harley-Davidson" and "Spoils", by B. Bolarski. (AM)

PROPANE #1 (\$1.50): "...will print any and all materials received...will come out whenever 24 pages are filled..." The plus side of PROPANE's editorial policy is giving everyone equal chance; the negative side is giving everyone equal chance. (No, that was not a typo!) PROPANE has left itself wide open to every kind of politics. Included is an especially foul three-frame photographic essay called "Meet Me At Rocky's", by Keith Ross. It's possible the artist/assembler's intent is to criticize sexism -- but what emerges from these intensely degrading images only serves to validate this particular social illness while undermining the serious criticism of sexism that has been and continues to be produced. The politics of Joel Federman's "Loose Energy", though flat-footedly expressed, helps provide a modicum of balance. (AM)

THE AMERICAN POETRY ANTHOLOGY (c/o John Frost, 250 A Portrero St., PO Box 8403, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-8403) is soliciting poems for their semi-annual contest, with a grand prize of \$1000. Write for more details. Everyone submitting work will get a copy of "The Poet's Guide to Getting Published".



Before we get into the reviews, I want to point out once again that there's more than just music in this section. Anything that arrives on record or tape can be found somewhere below, whether it be hardcore, pop, spoken word, or funny noises. Reviews are by Shane Williams (SW), Carol Schutzbank (CS), and the Aeditor (MG)

11TH HOUR, "Servation" b/w "Faster Than This" (More Toys Music, 2316 N. Washington Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201): The good news is that this light rock three-piece does a good job of playing its instruments. The bad news is that they have mistaken droning in roughly the same pitch for harmony. This doesn't sound like deliberate experimentation, but just lack of talent. Too bad. (45/MG)

7 SECONDS, "Praise." (\$5 from Positive Force Records, PO Box 9184, Reno, NV 89503 -- except that my copy was mailed by Tabb Rexx Enterprises, 6226 Santa Monica Blvd., Hollywood, CA 90038: I'm confused): Loud, fast music that is actually music, with lyrics that are positive punk rather than an ode to death and destruction or even beer. 7S talks about love and freedom, dedicates a song to Amnesty International, that sort of thing -- which doesn't stop the near-thrash beat from crashing back and forth across your brain. Noise for peace. "Siren", the closing number, neatly encompasses both the problem and the solution as they see it: "A world of constant need/What can I do to ease the pain...Lookin' to love/Let it be your Guide/Let it fill you, in spirit". (EP/MG)

700 CLUB, "Smash the State of the Art" (Slithering Disc Records, 484 Lake Park Ave. #142, Oakland, CA 94610): "The music was composed using a unique computer system with mathematical formulas [sic] deriving a matrix of numbers that translate into atonal chord progressions." This batch of crazy new wave musicians is then turned loose on it with an array of saxophones, guitars, and other weapons of noise, and something very quirky indeed comes out. For all I know the lyrics were written by computer too: "Give me liberty or give me pizza!/ Pizza constipates. Absolute pizza constipates/absolutely/So let us not puke our pizza on the sands of time..." Despite all of this, the band does grow on you, in that the music is fun to have on even if the lyrics are silly when they're even comprehensible. (LP/MG)

WILLIE ALEXANDER, "Burning Candles" b/w "In Your Car" (Arf Arf Records, PO Box 954, East Dennis, MA 02641): A pair of enigmatic love tunes. Like the rest of the Arf Arf stuff I've heard, this one is exquisitely produced, with horns and drums cutting in and out, dramatic pauses, and the overall impression of great care one gets from Pink Floyd's records, all arranged to spotlight Mr. Alexander's voice. Unfortunately he doesn't sing well enough to warrant all the attention. Too bad. (45/MG)

ALIEN PLANETSCAPES, "Too Young to Have a Taperecorder, Too

Old to Get a Drink" (\$5 from Doug Walker Space Station Studio, 479 5th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11215): With a title like that it's obvious that this isn't just another New Age band trying to suck in an audience of hippies. But the music they play is "space" music and A.P. was also described to me as having roots in free jazz. Well, this tape is a live improvised (in the studio) performance, but the modal riffing associated with jazz is absent. I would say that this is great SF soundtrack music the same way that Theatre of Ice are appropriate for horror movies. I have to give this tape thumbs up -- while not soothing it is also not an onslaught of hard to assimilate noise. Intriguingly experimental. (T/SW)

G.G. ALLIN, "Hated in the Nation" (\$9.25 from roir, 611 Broadway #725, New York, NY 10012): At last, a GG record that's likely to stay in print. This is a 50-minute live performance, skillfully created from snippets of tape by Mykel Board -- GG seldom lasts as long as 20 minutes on stage before an actual audience, thanks to his abusive, confrontational, shit-hurling (literally) style. Contains a selection of his rudest and crudest tunes about self-abuse, oral sex, shooting up, and other such cheery subjects. Also a lot of taped audience reaction, which is as close as I ever want to get to one of his gigs. Some people call this the real roots of rock, the dark, nasty, anti-social stuff that Top 40 pretends doesn't exist. It's quite an experience. (T/MG)

ERIC ALLISON, "Face" (Mom's Records, PO Box 2676, Pittsburgh, PA 15230): From the lack of any credits, I presume that this rock is all Eric's own creation, heavy on the keyboards, and with a steady drum beat that probably comes out of a machine. But that's no reason to ignore it. With the exception of a couple of interminably cute tracks ("Bumfuck Hardcore" and "Beer"), this is music with a jazzy feel to it, although not precisely a jazz sound. On the best of the bunch, like the title track or "Down Uptown", the listener can get carried away humming along to a tune that's not even familiar yet. (T/MG)

ANIMAL LOGIC, "Harrisonburg, Virginia" (Primal Beat Records, PO Box 33874, Washington, DC 20033): Animal Logic are a 5-piece rock band that has moved from Harrisonburg to DC to seek fame and fortune, or at least more gigs. This record is pretty hot stuff, with lots of quirky rhythm changes and keyboards and guitars cutting in and out -- reminiscent of Talking Heads, for example. The lyrics are mostly in the "question society" mode, with the final cut lamenting "An illusion called good and evil/That's something that we try to believe in/There are enemies real and imagined/That's something we're told to believe in." Well-mixed and catchy, this one is a winner. (EP/MG)

AREA, "White Canvas New Hope" (\$5 from Office Records, PO Box 2081, Stn. A, Champaign, IL 61820): In the past I haven't always spoken highly of Office Records' products, but this tape is an adequate justification for their existence. "Area," says the label, "is Lynn Canfield, Henry Frayne and Steve Jones", but what makes them special is the great blend of Lynn's wistful vocals with a comfortable but not monotonous keyboard-heavy backing track. The final result is quite hypnotic and relaxing, not the thing for the graduate student cramming for finals, but definitely a plus to anyone who needs to calm down and enjoy life for a while. (T/MG)

ARMS OF SOMEONE NEW, "Black and White" (\$5 from Office Records, PO Box 2081, Stn. A, Champaign, IL 61820): Rather melancholy vocals and guitar that radiate a gentleness suitable for grey rainy days and lovesick suitors. Sort of folksey-rocksey in style, with a minor resemblance to some of the work Bob Dylan has done (this resemblance is enhanced by a cover of "Knocking on Heaven's Door"), the material is good -- but only to a point. The vocals lack the depth and feeling they need to give the songs substance and meaning. As a result, much of the stuff here is not as sincere as it could be, and, because the mood is soft and somewhat somber, there's little to sustain the listener's attention beyond the first few offerings. A shame, too, because there are some nice touches of guitar along the way. Perhaps with a little maturity AOSN will be able to put across their music with the kind of feeling that will enable the listener to appreciate it for what it is. (T/CS)

ATTILA, "Rolling Thunder" (Shatter Records, 119 W. 57th St. #901, New York, NY 10019): I guess I should've expected that with a name and title like that the martial-sounding rhythm section would be omnipresent. I'm afraid the guitar

playing only amazes seconds at a time and the vocals neither strays for long from eunuch territory nor stays firmly there. All in all it's a rather mediocre showing. This is definitely heavy metal, but not speed, death, or punk, just straight ahead heavy and thus not particularly to my liking. But I'm sure there's worse in the genre. They screwed up and ruined "School's Out" and for that sin they get no good review in FF this time around. (LP/SW)

BIG DIPPER, "Boo-Boo" (Homestead Records, PO Box 570, Rockville Centre, NY 11571-0570): A Homestead supergroup with ex-members from Volcano Suns, The Embarrassment, and Dumptruck. My first reaction was that this was wimpy, then I found myself humming snippets of the songs for days and looking forward to playing it again. Put it in the Great Plains/Volcano Suns axis of zany sonotopics, for instance, searching for "Nessie" or ending up in San Quentin for some botched crime (or was it an accident?). My favorite cut is "What in Sam Hill...?" (are you talking about). Probably what most of you say when you read my reviews -- I hope! Catchy stuff with a bite; wimpy music for real men (and women!). (EP/SW)

BITCHES SIN, "Invaders" (King Klassic Records, PO Box 8532, Waukegan, IL 60079): This is definitely a metal band. They're not totally fluffy nor totally "dark" or "death" and they're not really glam either. What they are is a band from Illionis that somehow managed to get over to England to put out a record. The lyrics are nothing special, but the playing is near-virtuoso. The songs are fair. The one cut that the singer goes up into falsetto a la Steve Perry and that could easily fit on AOR radio also has the guitarist showing he knows jazz chops as well as rock. So in a way it's a travesty of heavy metal and shows a desire to cross over to rock. This album is recommended to metalheads but not if they're looking for totally uncompromising crash and burn. (LP/SW)

BLIND ARMADILLO #5 (\$2.75 from Natalie Kerr, PO Box 23385, Oklahoma City, OK 73123): A special cassettezine issue of this quarterly pfnzine, featuring something over 15 groups. The sound quality gets pretty off in places, but for the most part this is hot stuff. The Hidden Factor and Mystery Theatre lead off with a pair of poppy cuts, setting a mood which is immediately broken by the hard-driving rock of Rik Little and The Loose and The Painkillers. From there things continue to get strange, with notable cuts from Albany's Mambo-X, The Cat Heads (a somewhat psychedelic band fronted with clear vocals from Melanie Clarin), and Mark Derby, whose "Banging Krushchev's Shoe" is a strange parapsychological song in which the connections between everything are tightened until the world stops making sense. A nice assortment of styles, with very few loser tracks. (T/MG)

BOILED IN LEAD, "Hotheads" (Atomic Theory Records, 2105 25th Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 55406): A delightful, yea, even amazing record. If Steeleye Span integrated traditional Celtic music with progressive rock then Boiled in Lead definitely does the same thing for traditional Celtic and Punk. The tempo moves right along on the instrumentals, which are part trad and part rock. Don't get me wrong, this album still fits in with your Celtic collection better than your punk rock section -- but there aren't too many groups doing old folk songs that sound like Scratch Acid or something even noisier (on one cut, "Gypsy Rover", anyhow). Another vocal cut, "Househusband's Lament", has a near-thrash rhythm section, sort of like pumped-up rockabilly. But there's some real lilting Celtic stuff as well that taken out of context would give you no idea just how hot these heads are. So let it be said that traditional rules over American protest folk any day, and these guys are one of the finest purveyors around. Another thing I like is that there's plenty of instrumental stuff (I don't know whether they're jigs or reels or what, but they all sound great). Stretch your record collection in a new direction, get this. (LP/SW)

BREAKING CIRCUS, "The Ice Machine" (Homestead Records, PO Box 570, Rockville Centre, NY 11571-0570): The vehicle for Steve Bjorklund, who was an early hardcore dude in Strike Under. Like his contemporaries The Effigies he went post-punk/cold wave mixed with pretty solid rock sensibilities. This new

LP is the type of low-key affair that seems relatively unamazing on first listen and grows into a juggernaut of sophistication and interest with repeated playings. Surely

memorable for the lyric "I feel like a piece of burnt black toast hanging on a rusting wire", which follows another strong cut, "The Hammering". And after a while they all start sounding pretty tough. The rhythm section is dudes from Rifle Sport and I hope they stick it out here because I like Breaking Circus better. I'd be real curious to see these guys live and I also plan on trying to cop an interview with Steve. Check future issues of SPORADIC DROOLINGS for that, meantime get this album (LP/SW)

CAPITOL PUNISHMENT, "Slum With a View" (Unclean Records, PO Box 161621, Austin, TX 78716): This could be dubbed Yohannon Core. They're one of the bands that was in the original MAXIMUM ROCKNROLL compilation and their lyrics are still just as full of the same issues that warm the cockles of a partyline punk's heart. Tim Yohannon calls them outstanding and they thank him on this album. Meanwhile there is some and they thank him on this album. At first tight ensemble playing here and not a hint of metal. At first the singer's voice annoyed me -- he sounds like he's got a pepper grinder caught in his throat and is by and large monotonal -- but the more I heard it the better it worked since its lack of histrionics added to the band's tight sound. My favorite cut is about "Imelda's Shoes" and has a riotous bridge where nine zillion types of footwear are named to a mock marching beat. Pretty good political punk from Fresno (middle of nowhere California town) of all places. (LP/SW)

CAUSTIC NOTIONS, "Never Look Back" (Tippycoaster Records, PO Box 2871, Saratoga, CA 95070): An excellent punk band reminiscent of early L.A. hardcore. As is often the case with bands putting out their own records, the sound isn't crisp enough to leap out at you at first, but a few additional listens got me real happy to hear such great punk in this day and age. This is one band that hasn't flirted with going metal and hasn't decided to imitate any positive punk b.s. to get he other punk tribes panting over 'em. Most of their lyrics are personal politics, both defiant and thoughtful, "fuck the world" and "hey, let's understand what's going on here". The lyrics run the gamut and the music never disappoints. (LP/SW)

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 DONNY THE PUNK - PUNKTURE

NICK CAVE & THE BAD SEEDS, "Your Funeral...My Trial" (Sweetest Records, PO Box 570, Rockville Centre, NY 11580-0579): A wizard, a true star, a friggin' masterpiece. Side A is the closest to what he did on his covers LP, that subtle blend of reverence and tongue-in-cheek. Side B has the slower softer cuts that are keyboard dominated and showcase Nick's ability to catch flies with honey as well as his usual vinegar. Sides C and D are as bombastic in places as the famed Birthday Party -- but Nick's voice is showcased much more now than it was then, which was probably his reason for breaking up that band. It's hard to pick a favorite cut here, but I will add that anyone saying Nick now leads me to wonder whether they ever liked him for the right reasons. Nick Cave is the best singer alive today, of that there is no doubt in my mind. (dual EP/SW) *****

CERHALIC INDEX, self-titled (X-Kurzhen Music, 2074 Jackson Ave., Memphis, TN 38112): The next time the producers of the scary-booby horror pictures need a soundtrack they should look no further than Cerhalic Index and this release. Heavy duty NOIZ with lots of feedback and distortion, odd sounds, vocals rolling up from out of the speakers in slow deep tones over an ebb and flow of groaning, whining, moaning music, continuous hissing, and pounding rustling noises...this is not music for sending your kids to sleep late at night. On the other hand, if you enjoy reading Stephen King, H.P. Lovecraft, or political analyses of today's government...get yourself a copy of this immediately. (T/CS) *****

EUGENE CHADBOURNE, "Live at the Occult Bookstore" (\$6 from 2306 Sherwood St., Greensboro, NC 27403-2127): A fantastic performance from one of America's greatest underground performers. All three aspects of Eugene's career are mixed here: there's incredible killer noise coming from the Electric Lake; a smattering of cover versions (Whiter Shade of Pale, Dang Me, San Francisco Nights) and folk protest stuff that could have come straight from the Sixties but for their relevance. Fave cut: "Greetings From Grenada": "We kicked some sand in a few faces/and blew up a few places/when the bomb hit the hospital I thought it was a joke/and took another toke..." If you don't buy a few of Eugene's tapes, there's something wrong with you. (T/MG) *****

EUGENE CHADBOURNE, "Psychadelic" (\$6 from 2306 Sherwood St., Greensboro, NC 27403-2127): Long ago in FF (I'm too lazy to look up the issue) we reviewed a SHOCKABILLY album and raved over the "Born on the Bayou" cover. Well, Eugene was of course one of the driving forces behind SHOCKABILLY, and this is an entire tape of him doing covers accompanied by guitar and rake. Live sound isn't bad except for occasional muddy vocals. Hot versions of "Psychotic Reaction", "Day Tripper" and "96 Tears" stand out among the 15 or 20 tracks here, intercut with horror movies and other sound effects. (T/MG) *****

MICHAEL CHOCHOLAK, "Future Selves" (M&M Music, Rte. 1 Box 55, Cove, OR 97824): Electronic mood music that distinguishes itself by using up all the available moods. The tunes are as different as the titles: "Galjin Heart" perplexed me with its obscure foreign sound, "Radio Free America" moved found noise in and out of the synthesizer line, "The Somnambulist" very nearly caused me to doze (Hey, I've been writing reviews for 12 hours today!) but "Did You Remember to Turn Off the Coffee?" woke me right back up -- and that was just on side one. Michael moves from the hypnotic to the bouncy to the exotic and back with ease, making this a most enjoyable tape. (T/MG) *****

Ceilings Below, self-titled (\$7.98 from After Hours Records, 300 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115): What's the world coming to when a band has credits for both "Drum Programming" and "Real Drums"? In the case of CB, it's coming to some cool tight dance-rock sound. Dark and tense music, but with a fast enough beat to avoid being depressing, unless your brain cells find the time between riffs to think about the lyrics: "There are no reasons or answers/to the questions why/when wisdom comes/is when you die". Linda Wilson's voice can make this sound very profound indeed. (EP/MG) *****

COOL BEVERAGES, "Against Medical Advice" (Couch Potato Records, 50 Fairfax Dr., Warwick, RI): A five-piece rock band with a guest banjo player on this record, Cool Beverages lays down quite a complex piece of noise. Between the banjo and the mandolin it's a good deal lighter than punk, but the heavy guitar and drum tracks lead it back towards the rock arena. Over the top are Anne Marie Adrian's wild vocals, mainly in the lower registers but covering a considerable range, and for

the most part successfully pulling things together. Of the four tracks here I think I like "Big Teeth" the best, a romp from a capella near gospel music into cruising rock and back. The innovative packaging deserves a nod too. (EP/MG) *****

CRAWLING WITH TARTS, "Voccianna" (\$4 from ASP, PO Box 7568, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-7568): These folks put out the aural equivalent of mail art. You never know what's going to be on the next track, although the odds are good that it will be out of the ordinary. "Black Beasts + Cobs" is a moody number, evocative of jungles; "Wenn Ich Gehen" is a supremely annoying ode to the power of horns. Found noises and improvisations predominate, but do not replace, more traditional musicianship. Nice handmade packaging. (T/MG) *****

DIRTY FACE, "Carousel" b/w "Understand" (Buzz Magazine, PO Box 3111, Albany, NY 12203): BUZZ is the local music paper, and although I haven't seen a copy for a while they did send this bit of vinyl. Maybe you can get a copy by subscribing for a long span or something. Anyhow, I thought at first listen that Dirty Face was going to be just another insipid overproduced pop band. By the end of "Carousel", though, I was humming along, and although "Understand" broke the mood, there's potential there. But for the moment, I think they're just a catchy insipid band. (45/MG) *****

DONNY THE PUNK, "Jail Is..." (\$2 CASH from APRC, 151 First Ave., Box A, New York, NY 10003): Donny spent 7 years in jail and then three more in probation when he couldn't write about it. Time didn't dull his memories though, and this is a powerful, often revolting, spoken word tape. The entire hour consists of thoughts starting with the words "Jail is...", and detailing all of the low points, the feelings, and the occasional flashes of kindness that Donny felt and observed on the inside. It's impossible to listen to this without thinking that there is something profoundly wrong with our system of locking men in cages. Whether you think of this as prose, or poetry, or punkture, or whatever, it is a shocking tale. (T/MG) *****

DRESDEN, "Too Many Skeletons" (Incas Records, 272 Benham Ave., Bridgeport, CT 06604): Metalcore to the max. I read another review that ragged on the group for not having any new ideas. Well, all I can say is that they do a real cool fusion of hardcore and death metal and the only weak cut is the cover of "Sounds of Silence". This is well-played hard stuff and Joe Dias never detracts from the proceedings the way so many singers do. Whereas Nightmare (see below) comes from metal ot punk and ends up on the punk side, Dresden travels the opposite path and is closer to metal than punk -- or at least I'll go with that appraisal for now and urge fans of either genre to pick up Dresden. (LP/SW) *****

FORETHOUGHT, "Dejenlos Cruzar Las Fronteras" (\$1 from PO Box 880312, San Francisco, CA 94188-0312): Punk-sounding growled and shouted vocals over a hard rock backup. Though the lyric sheet gives a Spanish translation the songs are all in English -- I suspect this has something to do with the "English First" fuss out on the West Coast, as the lyrics are pretty socially conscious. Take "Let them Come Across": "Tear down the borders/That legalize gluttony/Let them come across/Mexico/ Storm the Borders..." The sleeve also features a short mood piece by Peter Plate, whose other work is reviewed in the BOOKS section of this FF. (EP/MG) *****

INVISIBLE HOUSE, self-titled (PO Box 6611, New York, NY 10128): A demo tape from a band that does dense, energetic original rock. The sound depends heavily on Elizabeth Baxter's bass playing, which at times threatens to overcome the lead guitar and Giacomo Servetti's drum lines. Conrad Warre is both guitarist and lead vocalist, and his voice is clear and pleasant, a welcome change from most of the stuff that comes through the FF review process. The lyrics are the cryptic sort that are good for sitting around late at night and wondering about: "We don't swim/We don't even see the shore/We don't go where the water isn't safe anymore". (T/MG) *****

JAM SCAM, self-titled (c/o Ronnie Dittmar, 3714 Clarkson Ave., Austin, TX 78722): It's my own fault. I was commenting to Mike that he hadn't really sent me any review material to slag -- it turned out that I even liked Christian band The Lead. So then he sent Jam Scam. Man, this is the worst record I've ever heard, at least in a situation where I had to listen carefully and be objective. This is totally commercial rock that makes Night Ranger or Loverboy sound talented in comparison, from the chorale effect that opens up the EP to the lyrics about the Boy Scouts in the last song. I've never heard such a totally limp goody-two-shoed piece of vinyl, and these guys don't even do it note perfect! The big surprise is that they're from Austin, but don't expect them to play

Woodshock, end up on a Glitch sampler, or sign with Rabid Cat. This is god awful bleccch! (EP/SW)

KILLING CHILDREN, "The Rockin Reigns Supreme" (Gravelvoice Records, PO Box 2271, Bloomington, IN 47402): "This is for all you hardcores - it's called 'Generic Hardcore'," claims the vocalist as the band launches into the song. But he could just as easily have been talking about the entire tape as that one song. Killing Children is pure garage punk rock of the most juvenile kind. Although the material notes one side was recorded in a studio and one side live, it's almost hard to tell the difference. There's the same angry fuzzing and humming of the guitars, the same angry rhythm lines, and the same yowling vocals. About the only thing that gives away the live side is the occasional comment to the crowd, and some scattered applause after a song. Once upon a time a release such as this would have been lost in the crowd. Now, with the emphasis more and more on metal (speedmetal, thrashmetal, heavymetal), this release stands out as a tribute to a type of music that has come and, for the most part, gone (mostly through absorption into other styles). (T/CS)

KNIGHTMARE, "Mindless Mayhem" (\$6.50 from Tim Koukos, 99 Sherwood Dr., Manchester, NH 03103): Here's a group that has an unapologetically metal image. The comic book they did (which I mentioned in the last FF) shows their records being burned along with AC-DC, Judas Priest, and Twisted Sister. But this sounds a lot more like a punk band than any of those, in other words, they're definitely metal core by my lights. And their cover of "Sonic Reducer" (immortalized by the Dead Boys) doesn't hurt this perception of their roots being firmly in punk. They've got an original I wouldn't mind covering myself, the anti-anthem "The Hate in Me Grows" which certainly sums up my experience with bureaucracy and humanity in general. Knightmare manifests this ethos further in their promo stuff and attitude which is highly "ism-ic" -- but they break it up by not having a single pretentious cut. There's no virtuosos here, but solid playing that never overreaches and is pretty invigorating. Recommended to punks and metalheads alike. (LP/SW)

LA'S WASTED YOUTH, "Get Out of My Yard" (\$5.75 from Open Circle Records, 1905 Victory Blvd. #14, Glendale, CA 91201): With only one member left of the original band and guitar playing much more metallic than thrash I can't say that this resembles the collector's item "Reagan's In" EP. But I don't think it really matters, and the mixing of political commentary with nihilism that characterized the early LA hardcore is still here. My favorite cut is "Blind Nuns" -- it's the fastest cut and its lyrics aren't exactly monumental, but it rips along. There are no really lousy cuts, and not much else that is essential. One cut has the vocal phrasings and rhythm attack of early Sabbath -- this is definitely a metalcore release. All in all an enjoyable slab and most of it grows on you. (EP/SW)

THE LEAD, "Automoloch" (\$6 from 10811 SW 67 Dr., Miami, FL 33173): I know Mike sent me this one to have something to slag but it didn't work out that way. The first EP by these born-again was mediocre and I hated the message. I still hate the message but the music and songs can't be denied their good review. The band is now playing thrash/speed metal with vigor and passion. In fact, what makes this really easy on my ears is the passion of the raging guitars and the way the increased ability has not led to increased polish. Vocalist Nina Llopis sounds like a cross between Johnette of currently-popular Concrete Blonde and Danielle of Ohio's forgotten Urban Mutants. Her sound is infectious and gripping and never just annoying like it was on the EP. The band says they would rather have you read their liner notes and seek God than buy the album -- I'd rather have you buy the album and ignore the lyrics -- but I have to say this is not a Christians Only album unless you just can't divorce message from sound like I can. (LP/SW)

MAGGOT SANDWICH, "Suckcesspool" (\$3 from KML Records, PO Box 9391, Pensacola, FL 32513): You've just got to love a band that holds a contest to pick their name and comes up with Maggot Sandwich and sticks with it! This EP has some catchy straight ahead punk with singer Vik Kaos at times phrasing his stuff like Jello and at other times sounding like Leonard from The Dickies. I can't really figure out why they chose to write a song about Ted dumping Mary Jo in the drink ("Killer in the

Senate") but the lyrics to "Termination" are a gas: the guy turns to drugs when he knows he's gonna lose his job, that type of thing. All the hardcore types who lament the advent of metalcore but love the Dickies need this one. No totally lame cuts and plenty of lyrics to relate to (cops as social rejects, that sort of thing). (EP/SW)

MENTAL ANGUISH, "Crying Shame" (\$5 from Harsh Reality Music, PO Box 241661, Memphis, TN 38124-1661): Electronic musical ramblings combined with ranting vocals containing a lot of pent up angst and frustrations. It's hard to tell where one song lets up and another begins because there's very little variation in the music -- the songs are distinctive through the lack of, or inclusion of, vocals. From the beginning of side one through to the end of side two it never lets up, but neither does it build into anything. Rather, it rants and raves along in the same straight path, the synthesized rhythms and sounds striding along at the same pace; after a while that tends to grate on the nerves and the ears. (T/CS)

M.I.A., "After the Fact" (Flipside Records, PO Box 363, Whittier, CA 90608): I hate to say it, but I think the hottest track on this otherwise all-original album is the cover of "California Dreamin'". Fast and raw rock, but with intelligent lyrics and a mix that makes it possible to hear them. A small sample of one of the least optimistic numbers:

"This world is beautiful, take a look you'll see/Rich getting richer while the poor sleep in the streets/All the president's men lying on TV/The shit's getting deep, think it's time to leave..." Great harmonies and production on standout numbers like "Broken" and "It follows me" make this a winner. (LP/MG)

MINIMUM WAGE, self-titled (95 cents from David Rohm, 10710 SW 125 Ave., Miami, FL 33186): Or David writes, "If anyone you know may want one please tell them they can get one free if they write a letter with a color drawing of their parents on the back." And that's about all I know about the band, so only the music is left to discuss. It's darned good folk-tinged rock, the sort of melodic stuff that one got from the socially-conscious rockers of the Sixties, but the lyrics are more the confusion of the Seventies. Take the opening lines of "Food Song": "You're a sandwich/You're a piece of cake/You're a turnip/Not a Frosted Flake/You're an aarvark/Eating little black ants..." I like this one a bunch. (EP/MG)

THE MUMBLES, "Devil Box of the Gods" (PO Box 8312, Wichita, KS 67208): For some reason this reminds me of Johnny Thunders' music; there's the same late-night smoky-bar ambience to it. The music crashes along in a sea of guitars and drums, with Butch Eberly weaving both a sax line and nasty lead vocals in and out. Works almost as a fusion of jazz and punk, full of energy and sounding improvised but controlled. The lyrics...well, let's just say that I wouldn't want to meet up with the writer's brain alone in a dark alley. Hot stuff. (T/MG)

WILLIE MURPHY, "Piano Hits/Hits Piano" (Atomic Theory Records, 2919 Como Ave. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414): It's a real pleasure to review good non-rock independent music. Willie plays the barroom blues with style and heart, turning a rickety piano and his gravelly vocals into something quite special. The A side of this one is a studio set including "Pocket Full of Money" and "Danger Zone", but better yet is the reverse: a live set (presumably during his regular Wednesday night set at the 400 Bar). From a rocking rendition of "Dizzy Miss Lizzy" to the laid-back "Fairy Tale", this stuff will get your head nodding and your feet tapping. Hot stuff. (LP/MG)

NOT FOR SALE, "NFS" (Rabid Cat Records, PO Box 49263, Austin, TX 78765): This album made a believer out of me. I was unimpressed with the muted instrumental attack of their single, "For a Few Dollars More". Then I heard their song "Collar Bondage" on the BANDS ON THE BLOCK compilation and my ears perked up. Well, the new LP has "Collar Bondage" done hip and not one duff cut on the whole album. In fact I'll go out on a limb and say that not since the first PSYCHEDELIC FURS album (self-titled) has a saxophone been integrated so effectively into a rock setting. There is nothing mild about the rock on this album and nothing simplistic in the lyrics. In fact the lyrics are way above average for a hardcore band

and for better or worse Not For Sale are a hardcore band, but
with melodies and originality as well as the intensity that
the hardcore tag. (LP/SW)

PAUL DI'ANNO'S BATTLEZINE, "Fighting Back" (Shatter
Records, 156 Fifth Ave. #623, New York, NY 10010): Old rock
and rollers never die, they say, and it certainly seems as if
Di'Anno has taken this creed to heart and made it his own. The
former lead for Iron Maiden is back with a new band and a new
sound, but it's clear that his heart and his roots are
still in the old style. "Fighting Back" is loaded with much of
the rhythm and hooks that were the trademark of early heavy
metal bands, before the advent of speed and thrashmetal music.
The drums are forceful and serve as a stalwart anchor for the
guitar work. Unfortunately, though, that end doesn't stand up
as well as it could. There's nothing outstanding about the
chords and progressions used at all. It seems that the band
relies on old standards rather than new creativity, and that
diminishes what could otherwise be illuminating music. A few
years back this would have been a winner release; now it's
more a testament to a survivor in the battle. (LP/CS)

BLAIR PETRIE, "NRBP" (C\$6 from CLAS, PO Box 86010, N.
Vancouver, BC, V7L 4J5, CANADA): Progressive rock that is much
more accessible and less confrontational than Blair's
"Requested Music" cassette [see FF21]. With the exception of a
somewhat abrupt ending on "The Heart In Winter", all of this
is relatively slow-paced melodic stuff, put together with a
variety of synthesizers and electronics, and Blair's own
voice, which is somewhat borderline for the genre. Decidedly
heavy on liquid-sounding strings, and a nice change of pace
for the harried reviewer. (P/MG)

PLASTIC PATRICK, "Hickoid Massacre" b/w/ "Country Thangs"
(Matako Mazuri Records, PO Box 4084, Austin, TX 78765):
Country punk with a sarcastic message. The A side is the
story of a band with a sad ending ("They were living legends
till they died") but the sound quality sucks (the label
blames it on the master tape being dug up from a West
Virginia cave). The B side though is much better, listing
all the wonderful reasons to move out of our decaying cities:
"I love the smell of bullshit in the morning...I live in West
Virginia/ Where your cousin is your paw...Oh Country Thangs,
Country Thangs...", and the recording is a lot cleaner to
boot. (45/MG)

POPTONTO, "Time to Think" (Disrupted Records, PO Box
14742, Richmond, VA 23221): Atypical hardcore. It's got the
heavy guitars and the killer vocals and the loud drum backing
line, and it says on the back, "This record was made LOUD to
be played LOUD". OK, that's pretty typical. But Mike Pacello
makes sure I can hear and understand the lyrics, and that's
not. Nor is the song "Right to Life", a pro-choice ditty
inspired by the bombings of abortion clinics. Nor is the final
track, "Sponge", which ends with guitarist Scott Wagner
singing "Carry on, carry on..." over a rock track that is more
progressive than hardcore. Apparently it is possible to be
both punk and talented at the same time. (LP/MG)

ROBERT POSS, "Sometimes" (Trace Elements Records, 172 E.
4th St. #11D, New York, NY 10009): Except for the piano and
backing vocals, everything on this poppy tape is Robert
himself -- both guitar lines, the drums and the lead vocals.
Modern technology combines this into pleasing pop, not very
memorable but not at all dismissable. The lyrics are
thoughtful, and my favorite track is "Sermon on Competition":
"You think you know it all/You work hard enough/But your job
seems dull/I could've been you/But I prefer not to..." (T/MG)

DAVID PRESCOTT, "Electromagnetism" (\$7 or trade for other
tapes from David at 117 Willow St., Boston, MA 02130): I
thought for a while that my speakers were going to explode.
David uses old-style heavy-duty electronics to produce a wall
of noise that builds in rhythmic crescendos until it seems
certain that either ears or brain will give way if the stereo
doesn't. No fancy little envelope generators or barking pig
noises here, just melodies fueled by oscillators that bore
into your head. David is also a DJ for WZBC, and he plays
trade tapes on the air. (T/MG)

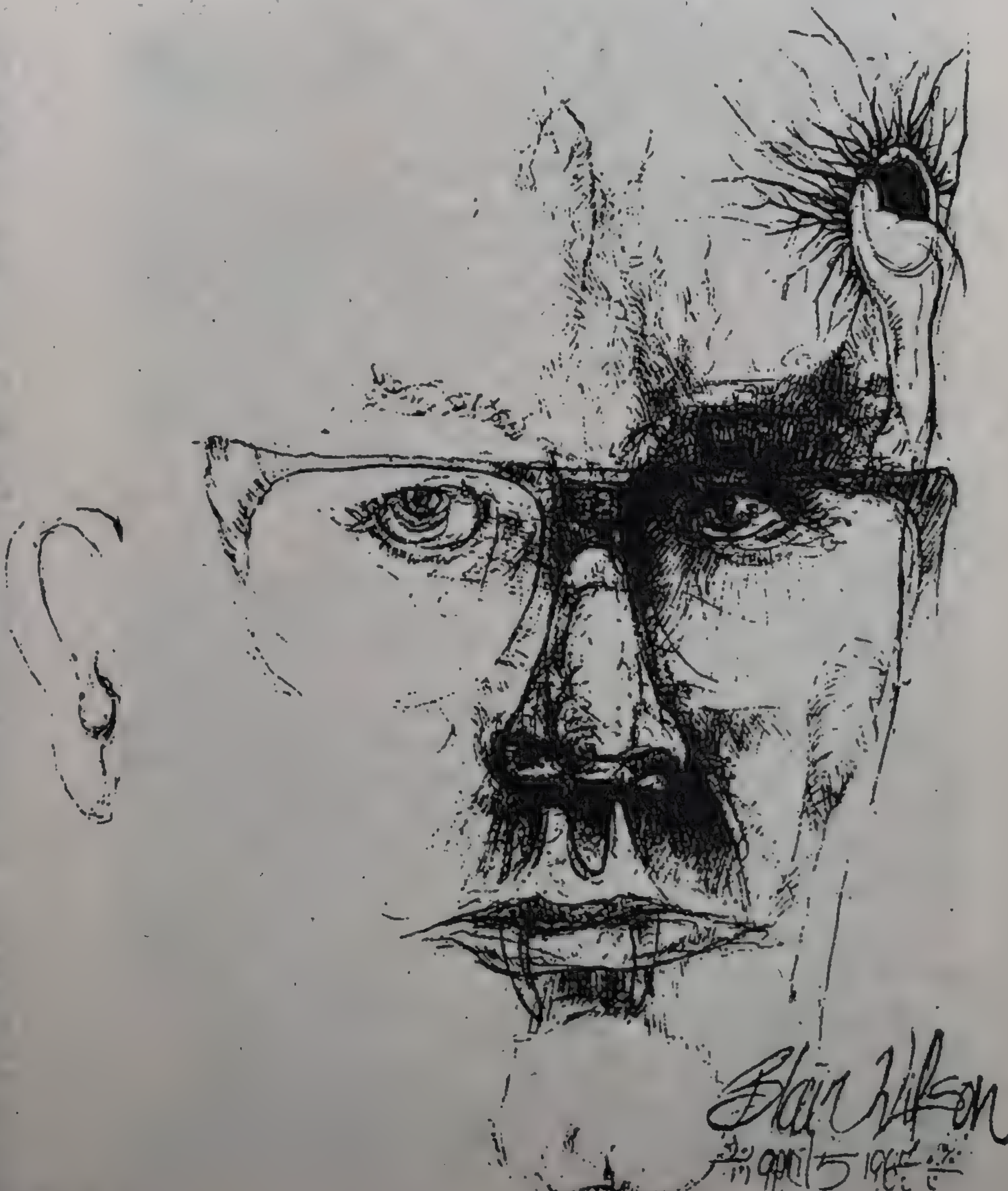
PREVARICATORS, "Detente" (Disrupted Records, PO Box 14742,
Richmond, VA 23221): Powerpunk music with a definite kick to
it. Although there's not a whole lot of creativity to this

release, there is talent. What's played may be fairly simple
in terms of arrangement and/or presentation, but it's played
well. The Prevaricators play music in the rowdy, top-of-the-
lungs style favored by such groups as DOA. "Detente" gives the
impression that this band must be great to watch live: loads
of energy and passion to the music and the vocals. (LP/CS)

PSEUDO-ZINE #1 (\$15/6 issues from GGE Records, PO Box
5088, Kent, OH 44240): I could have reviewed this as a
fanzine with tape, but instead I'm calling it a tape with
zine, OK? There don't seem to be many of these cassettezines
around any more, so it's could to see one starting. This time
the tape features Lizard, an experimental local three piece
that plays strange improvisational music. The eastern or
Arabic melodies on "Someone Else's Nightmare" were a knockout,
eerie synth wailing over a mutable drum beat. The zine holds
some startup editorial stuff, an interview with Closet Drama,
and a review of the Focus album, "Focus 3" (how's that for
digging in the remainder bins?). A nice first issue. (CZ/MG)

QUESTION MARK & THE MYSTERIANS, "The Dallas Reunion Tapes
- 96 Tears Forever" (\$9.25 from ROIR, 611 Broadway #925, New
York, NY 10012): Nearly twenty years after they first made it
big, the Mysterians are back in this great live set. The high
point of course is the super-extended version of "96 Tears",
but there are plenty of other standout tracks, like the
unexpurgated "Girl (You Captivate Me)" with the lyrics they

couldn't release in the Sixties and the closing "I'll be
back". Tex-Mex organ and guitars, great stuff. ROIR is to be
commended for preserving this performance along with their run
of punk and new wave tapes. (T/MG)



RED LORRY YELLOW LORRY, "Cut Down" (Homestead Records, PO Box 570, Rockville Centre, NY 11571-0570): This is a band that has got to be heavily influenced by Joy Division and early Killing Joke. They got started around the same time the gothic and positive punks were emerging and a "Bat Cave" scene was forming. They picked their name so as not to get lumped in with bands like Sex Gang Children and Southern Death Cult -- who are now simply The Cult, and imitating Led Zeppelin. Meanwhile, RLYL have proved themselves much more serving heirs to the gloom tradition than New Order (from the ruins of Joy Division) or today's Killing Joke. Let's just say that they burn like liquid nitrogen, white hot/ice cold. They don't let up and a full length LP is to be awaited joyously. It will probably sell every copy in record time since this one went like hotcakes. (EP/SW)

MARK REEVE, "In the Wilderness" (Robinhood Productions, PO Box 33398, Baltimore, MD 21218): A pop rock album that combines strength and grace in one fell swoop. There's a nice feel to this album that lifts it above the usual pop rock offerings one tends to find these days. Some of the guitar work is instrumental and pretty, lulling the listener into a false sense of ease, when suddenly the rhythm kicks in, the vocals pick up, and a whole new sense of swing pervades the song. What's most effective about the material is Reeve's voice, which effectively complements any mood the music takes, from hard-edged to reflective. (LP/CS)

THE RODS, "Heavier Than Thou" (Passport Records, 3619 Kennedy Rd., S. Plainfield, NJ 07080): Heavy Metal fronted by a lead vocalist recruited away from Dutch groups Picture and Horizon. With these lyrics it probably doesn't even matter whether he knows the language or not. The guitar playing is appropriately heavy, the drums crash through and the music is, all in all, just about what you'd expect. It takes balls to even attempt a cover of a Led Zeppelin song, but "Communication Breakdown" actually comes off well: faithful to the spirit of the original without being slavishly imitative. This album also features various spoken debris between tracks and closes with a 44-second harmonica solo, just to keep you guessing. (LP/MG)

RUIN, "Fiat Lux" (Meta Meta Records, c/o GFA, 1015 Chestnut St. #500, Philadelphia, PA 19107): In 1984 I rated Ruin's first album, "He-Ho" in my top ten for the year, so it should come as no surprise that "Fiat Lux" also gets the nod from me. Ruin is kind of known as a Buddhist punk band, but that in no way makes for lame lyrics or insipid music. To get down to brass tacks, Ruin is a true acid rock band who can keep a hardcore punk audience at bay with the intensity of

their sound. My favorite cuts are "Make Believe" and "China" ("Dig. Dig a hole -- through to China") though they also do justice to covers of "White Rabbit" and "Famous Blue Raincoat". Don't miss this album -- these hippies rock! (Just kidding, fellas). (LP/SW)

SALEM 66, "Frequency & Urgency" (Homestead Records, PO Box 570, Rockville Center, NY 11571-0570): Maybe now that drummer Susan Merriam has left the band reviewers will find something to say besides "Three girls and a guy, how neat!" I know I'd rather talk about the melodic pop sound and the the wistful lyrics myself. Check out "Blue", for example: "I knew a girl who was made of glass/But she would never throw stones/She don't ask you questions 'cause she/Don't want to know..." S66 have quite a critical following, and after hearing this it's easy to understand why. It's good music to listen to, at least as long as you like guitars that make music instead of brain damage. (LP/MG)

SEX CLARK FIVE, "Strum & Drum!" (Records to Russia, 1207 Big Cove Rd., Huntsville, AL 35801): You have to go way back if you want comparisons to this band, with their notable absence of synthesizers, harmonic vocals, and prominent acoustic guitars. The (early) Beatles are a good place to start, and while some might say that meant these guys were behind the times, it ain't so. Good rock is eternal. 20 tracks on this album include a sardonic commemoration of the last flight of the Challenger in "51-L", a swipe at their

roots in "Get Back Yoko", and the harmonious and upbeat "Valerie", with intriguing tempo changes. (LP/MG)

SNOT, "Slaughterhouse" (\$3 from KML Records, PO Box 9391, Pensacola, FL 32513): Like KML labelmates Maggot Sandwich and Stevie Stiletto, the accent here is on raucous hardcore with social commentary lyrics and plenty of humor. Pretty decent sound with vocalist Alex growling as effectively as Darby Crash at points. But for some reason the part that sticks in my mind the most is the intro to the first song, "Harass County" where the fellows are lighting up some good "bumby" (we used to call it 'lumbo) and the cops come to the door. (EP/SW)

SOUNDS OV EARTH, "The President" b/w "Strike Up the Band" (Elan Vital Music, PO Box 3112, Florence, AL 35630): A terribly earnest song of social consciousness, pleading for a bit of reason: "I hope she's a good man, The President/My child might want to be like her/I hope she likes the birds and hte trees/I know I still have a lot to learn/But I know our life's in her hands..." over a jazzy light rock backing including a nice flute line. The B side is sort of the Live Aid drawn-out chorus version. Too bad they're not a major group, else this would have gotten heavy airplay. (45/MG)

SPLATCATS, "Sandy, Candy and Hank" (Celluloid, 330 Hudson St., New York, NY 10013): Their press release calls this "guitar driven Bubblegum From Hell", but it doesn't really stand out as much as all that. Sure, they're energetic, and they have a nice trashy garage rock sound, but the first two cuts on this EP are pretty ordinary. Only the closer, "Surfin' Hearse", got me going, with its annoying but irresistible "Ba-ba-ba-da-ba-da" refrain and its idiotic image of driving a hearse on the beach. Not bad, but not the fantastic rockers they aspire to be. (EP/MG)

SPUDS, "Strong Boy" b/w "She Sits There Idle" (Mom's Records, PO Box 2676, Pittsburgh, PA 15230): The A-side makes me think of UK Squeeze -- their first release with John Cale producing. Not that it's that good but something about the way the chorus kicks in along with the fact that that first Squeeze record had an ad with a muscleman. But at any rate this is new wave or power pop that just barely avoids sucking but could be worse. Not recommended unless you're looking for bouncy stuff for young college types who are virulently anti-punk. (45/SW)

NUDGE SQUIDFISH, "2000 A.D." (PO Box 644, Westerville, OH 43218): Before the actual review, there's something I have to get off my chest: why is it people put short musical offerings on long cassette tapes? So that before you know it the songs are over and there's large amounts of dead airspace hanging in your living room as you wait for the side to end so you can flip it over? It's be a lot nicer if people would just use shorter cassette tapes. Okay, enough of that...and thanks for allowing me to vent my frustrations. On to the actual review. I must admit I was preconditioned to be a little negative, what with all that empty airspace on the tape while I sat waiting, waiting, for more music that never came. But on the whole, this was an entertaining release. Relying primarily on synthesizer and guitar, Nudge presents a variety of songs, politically and intellectually oriented, in a subtle pop manner. One of my favorites (and one of the best examples of that) is "Terrorism as a Political Act" with lyrics you should pay attention to and music that reminds one of the Beatles' lifting "Your Mother Should Know". Now, if only there were more music and less empty space... (T/CS)

SQUIRREL BAIT, "Skag Heaven" (Homestead Records, PO Box 570, Rockville Centre, NY 11571-0570): Compared by many to Husker Du and by me to Micronotz, there is not one song on this album that doesn't draw you in with its combination of a left hook catchiness and right uppercut of pure slap to the face music. And what can you say about a band whose single has the chorus "I don't need no pig stamping on my buzz"? Added points for the album title, for covering a Phil Ochs cut, and for having fine little pithy lyrics that are enigmatic as hell and included with the record (not all that common for Homestead releases). Whoever said recently that lyrics are better heard and not seen is wrong -- usually I enjoy reading them more than reading words meant to stand alone as poetry. Let's hope these guys won't split up -- supposedly they don't

...in the same place any more due to school obligations.

SUICIDE, "Ghost Riders" (\$9.25 from ROIR, 611 Broadway New York, NY 10012): Recorded live at their 10th anniversary concert, this paradoxically does not sound as polished as the Dutch East India reissue of their 1977 self-titled album [see FF 21]. SUICIDE is Martin Rev on a couple of synths and Alan Vega doing vocals. This music is not meant to be accessible, but with its assertive beat and screaming vocals it is interesting. Check out "Rock and Roll is Killing My Life", an indictment of the whole damned business. (T/MG)

THE TEXAS INSTRUMENTS, "The Thing in Apartment B" b/w "Good Times in Rhythm" (Matako Mazuri Records, PO Box 4084, Austin, TX 78765): An appetite whetter for their upcoming Rabid Cat album. No doubt in my mind that these guys are one of the most versatile, talented trios going. The A side leads in with an uncategorizable guitar workout (neither metal, jazz nor blues) to a smoking song. Then the B side is perhaps the mellowest, or at least most easily assimilated, cut I've heard by them, but still not without impact. Like the Minutemen they seem to be able to write innumerable songs in just as many styles and never sound less than fair. And for my money the best of their stuff is better than the Minutemen -- a trio to collect for sure! Note that they have a killer cut on the Glitch Sampler reviewed below and also appeared on Woodshoc '85 [see FF20]. Definitely keep your ears de-waxed for the album, which should be out this year. (45/SW)

THEATRE OF ICE, "Love...is like Dying" (\$5 from PO Box 2262, Provo, UT 84603-2262): This is sort of a limited edition, compiled for the people who had all of the existing ToI cassettes and wanted more. Most of it is alternate versions of songs on their 4th cassette, "Resurrection". They've released a lot of music over the years, and continue to explore the same thematic material, placing them more firmly under the designation "horror" than any other band I can think of. Due to changes in line-up, equipment and expertise, the music keeps mutating without any sudden shifts. Musically superior to their competition, the only thing missing is a drummer who can keep up with the rest of the instrumentation. Lyrically, more sophistication is showing -- see "Gone with the Worms" and "Hungry for Ruin". If you're already a fan, ask about this one -- otherwise order their "House Blood" and "Resurrection" releases. All cassettes come with lyrics and info booklets too. (T/SW)

THE THIRD, self-titled (\$3 from Demented Mind Mill, PO Box 2262, Provo, UT 84603-2262): Like Oblivion Now, this is an offshoot of Theatre of Ice. With The Third I feel that something important is coming out of the Demented Mind Mill that should be nurtured. The only vocals on this C-30 release are subliminal on the first cut and minimal on the last -- in between is that distinctive blend of progressive and punk elements that often recalls horror themes and sometimes borders on so-called industrial. All these titles cannot do justice to the sonic landscape that these tunes evoke. The surrealistic paintings of Yves Tanguy are the visual equivalent, far more stark and less posed than Dali's. Anyone into underground tapes shouldn't miss this. (T/SW)

THROWING MUSES, "Chains Changed" (on 4AD; USA Contact: Ken Goes, PO Box 9515, Dartmouth, MA 02747): Well, yes, the rumor is true: TM's sound is changing a bit now that they're on a somewhat major label. Comparing this EP to their demo tape, or even to the first 4AD album, leads to the conclusion that the "new" TM sound is faster and fuller, with the music and lyrics not giving the listener time to catch his mental breath. But this isn't necessarily a bad thing, especially when you consider that this one was recorded in London with songs from their live tour; it has a more "live" feel than some of the tricky studio tracks and screaming vocals on the previous stuff. I don't think the "old" TM is gone (at least I hope not!) but the "new" one is great stuff too. Melodically complex, blistering high-energy rock that is fun to listen to. (EP/MG)

JOHNNY THUNDERS, "Stations of the Cross" (\$9.25 from ROIR, 611 Broadway #725, New York, NY 10012): I know that no one expects me to slag off the dude who tried to make punk synonymous with junk. Thunders is the type of guy it's better to listen to on tape than go to see live, unless you're the

one selling him his dope or want to pick up on his groupies. Live the man puts you through changes just to convince him to play his friggin' set, but this tape doesn't torture you with too much of his bullshit except for the phony sounding yells to turn up the PA. At any rate there is some great guitar music here and all around cool songs that are definitely meant to be covered by the likes of me and all the rest of the punk/decadence freaks. Yes, Johnny was punk before punk was cool and then some. The guy is a jerk, but a cool jerk. This is the second ROIR tape of his music so I guess they don't want him mugging anybody for his next fix. Chip in and buy this. (T/SW)

JOHN TRUBEE, "Blind Man's Penis" (Seidboard World Enterprises, 75 Bleecker St., New York, NY 10012): At last this legendary song is available. John sent some disgusting lyrics to a Nashville song mill, and instead of getting indignant, they took his eighty bucks to record them. So now you can hear an over-the-hill cowboy singing "Warts loved my nipples because they are pink/Vomit on me, baby/yeah, yeah, yeah" and other such gems over a slowpoke C&W backing track. The only change was the substitution of "blind man's penis" for "Stevie Wonder's penis", whence the title of this cut. On the flip side, John calls an unsuspecting motel owner and goes psychotic over the phone, complete with sound effects. Grating and unique. (45/MG)

Various Artists, "21st Century Dub" (\$9.25 from ROIR, 611 Broadway #925, New York, NY 10012): Proof that music is an international language. This is reggae recorded at Bob Marley's studio in Jamaica, with a bunch of the musicians being from right around there. All right, so that's not unusual, but what about the other half of the stuff? The driving force behind the tape is a Japanese musician named Pecker, and his compatriots make up the rest of the musicians. The result? Just plain reggae, with covers of old favorites (including a nice extended mix of "Jamming") mixing with such unlikely ditties as "Mystical Electro Harakiri". Great fun. (T/MG)

Various Artists, "Bigger Than God" (\$5 from Office Records, PO Box 2081, Stn. A, Champaign, IL 61820): A sampler of eight bands from the Office Records label. Standouts include Outnumbered, who go from a garage-rock cover of "San Francisco" to a much-grungier original tune; the full sound and complex rhythms of Area; Split Heavens' great trash-can and echoed-zombie covers of "The Girls From Ipanema" and "She Said" (I'm waiting anxiously for a full-length tape from these guys); and the moody guitar work of the Judy Gang. An excellent way for a label to promote its wares, and a good listen to boot. (T/MG)

Various Artists, "Crawling From Within" (77 records, 77 Newbern Ave., Medford, MA 02155): You never know which fanzine will be putting out a compilation next (though I don't think I'll join the club soon) -- this all-Boston disc comes to you from Rocco of BANG! magazine. Some hot tracks on here. Das Furlines deliver a wonderful garage-rock cover of "We Do, Wie Du" (originally done by The Monks); The Lemonheads churn out a couple of nice melodies; and The Brood end it all with, of all things, a surf instrumental ("Surfin' Eyeball"). There are also more punk tracks here from The Bags and Limbo Race, and only a few clunkers (one unaccountably coming from Space Negro Erik Lindgren, who usually knows better). (LP/MG)

Various Artists, "Glitch Sampler Vol. II: Class of '86" (Glitch Records, PO Box 4429, Austin, TX 78765): This helps prove that Austin is full of better than average music. Marshall Law's "Red Bay" is my favorite, a polished song that would be AOR fodder in a better world, full of hooks and cool lyrics. The guitar work is one of those note-perfect blasts that is a high in itself. The rest of the comp is mostly humpy-pumpy bar-band burners like the Strappados doing "Lickety Split" and Alamo Choir's "Rebecca". Other hot cuts from Hell's Cafe, Texas Instruments and Daniel Johnston. Make no mistake, this compilation is for rock and roll aficionados. (LP/SW)

Various Artists, "Let's Get Fucked" (\$4 from Bob Z., Artists & Writers Underground, c/o Sarris Bookmarketing, 125 E. 23rd St. #300, New York, NY 10010): The first cassettezine (as distinct from independent tape) released by the folks who publish BAD NEWZ and SELECTED OOZE, this one features a mix of

underground music and punkture. As faithful FF readers will recall, I haven't been exactly enthusiastic about punkture in the zines, which is why I was surprised that it worked better here. David Huberman reading disgusting poems is somehow a lot more enjoyable than having to read them yourself. Other spoken word stuff comes from Bob Z., Donny the Punk, Demo Moe, and Bug; more-or-less musical tracks are turned in by A.P.P.L.E., SCAB and CATHARSIS, among others. The latter band's track, "Uptight", is a neat piece of music that helps to break up the spoken pieces. The live recording is occasionally low quality, but that aside, this is a good deal. (T/MG)

Various Artists, "Notes From the Underground" (\$4 from Jim Testa, 418 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, NJ 07087): The third of the JERSEY BEAT compilation tapes. This time around I think the "Tap Your Feet" side is pretty lame, but the "Bang Your Head" side makes up for it, with good stuff from Wasserman Love Puddle, Krazy Alice, and a live cut from A.P.P.L.E., as well as another humorous vignette from Moist Ham Radio. Comes with an issue of Teen Punk magazine, and features mainly local Jersey groups. (T/MG)

Various Artists, "A Tale of Two Andys" (\$5 from K.O. City Studio, PO Box 255, Dracut, MA 01826): "Various" in this case means "Two". The A Side is from Andy Dowden, and is a mixed experimental bag -- tape intercutting, TV excerpts, acoustic guitar, synthesized arrangements -- that is good precisely because it is so mixed. "The Love Song", consisting of dozens of excerpts of the word "love" from popular recordings, is particularly entrancing; I recognized about a third of the sources. The B side of this tape is from label owner Andy Szava-Kovats, and is ambient electronic stuff with occasional vocals. It reminded me quite favorably of the distorted classical music that Kubrick got sued for using in 2001. (T/MG)

Various Artists, "Victory Music Revue Vols. I & II" (\$13 from Victory Music, PO Box 7515, Bonney Lake, WA 98390): Though far afield from our usual fare, this is undoubtedly one of the best albums -- and best deals -- reviewed in this issue. Put out by the same folks who publish the VICTORY MUSIC REVIEW zine, this is a collection of 25 artists who have played at their open mike nights. They play mainly various brands of folk, and they're all good, so I'll just pick four to highlight, one per side. Terry Lane's "Rainy Day" is a mellow (in the best sense of the word) acoustic tune, pleasant, nostalgic and beautiful. It should be on the air. Tracy Moore's "McSharry's Jig" is, as one would expect, a nifty instrumental composition. On side 3 is my fave from the entire set, Bill Davie's "The Mud Song". I like mud, I like social commentary, and I want to hear his cassette. "Zeno's Breakfast", by Paul Ely Smith, is another great instrumental, with synth, piano, trombone and other horns and lots more mixing well. Get this if you like any acoustic music at all. (dual LP/MG -- C-90 cassette version for \$11)

VERBAL ABUSE, "Verbal Abuse Rocks Your Liver" (Boner Records, PO Box 2081, Berkeley, CA 94702): A punk-metal rave-up with a nod to the 70s. The first cut is their rip of Queen's "We Will Rock You" and the last cut is a pretty straight cover of Elton John's "Saturday Night's Alright for Fighting". In between the party attitude remains foremost with a few songs being paeans to the anarchy of the individual. My main quibble is that the two cuts that appeared on the Boner compilation are here in inferior versions, which they obviously must feel are better versions so I'm not sure whether the band is headed in a direction that I approve of. But meanwhile they definitely roll and tumble your internal organs just fine. (LP/SW)

VICTORY, COMMISSAR-IN-CHARGE, self-titled (\$3.50 CASH/POSTAL MO from W. Siegel, PO Box 2587, Church St. Stn., New York, NY 10007): Actually, the title is the same as the artist only in Russian. I really hate it when reviews start by mentioning a bigger group, but this guy's music really does remind me of the Nails -- there's the same sensation of flowing quickly along on a trip that one didn't particularly order. Electronically-processed echo-ish vocals, drum machine and synth combine with really weird lyrics to make something special. Best cut is "The Morning's First Commuters Greet the Brand-New Broadcast Day", a tale of the never-ending futility of modern industrial life: "And the sunset's lurid colors bring/Sullen waves of casualties/They crawl home in agony/

Forced to accept abject defeat/They have the night to convalesce/While I myself will gladly bless/The uneventful end of another broadcast day..." A dark horse but a damned good one (3-song demo T/MG)

THE WALLMEN, "Supersonic Witchcraft Cookies" (\$3 from Dead Judy, 7711 Lisa Ln., Syracuse, NY 13212): Not really as bad as I'd feared. From what I've gleaned this band is somewhat of a SubGenius house band that has played the SubG get-togethers. It actually sounds as if it could all be done by one guy and a 4-track, but I guess it's not. What is happening here is some experimental noodling and not-too-insistent grooves that never rocks out but definitely amuses. In many spots the lyrics are clearly audible and seem designed to get a laugh -- certainly "I smoked so much Jesus I was crucified" is a one-liner, which actually leads into one of the more interesting musical passages. I guess this is recommended for people who like taped weirdness and don't care too much about musical intensity. (T/SW)

WASSERMANN LOVE PUDDLE, self-titled (\$4 from PO Box 348, Hawthorne, NJ 07507): Loud, hard, driving rock-and-roll. WLP are a four-piece, with Jonathyn Deevyus and Esmeralda Laurelster trading off powerful vocals -- neither one of them can be accused of trying to sing like a bird, but their voices go great with this music. Choppy guitar work courtesy of Whalen Michaels and a strong beat from Davoid Hoskins complete this four-piece. No fancy production, no hype, but instead just what the doctor ordered: rock music. (T/MG)

WEST SIDE HEAT, "Chicago Bound" (Bittersweet Records, 708 W. Bittersweet #612, Chicago, IL 60613): A hot rockin' record. While listening to the first cut I thought, "Well, this isn't bad rockabilly, they sound like the Stray Cats." Then they finished that up and went into "He Knows the Rules", a bluesy lament with an extended hot harmonica and organ jam (played respectively by Mark Hoekstra and Matt "The Cat" Ryan), and I was just blown away. Just to top off the cake, the flip side closes with "Mr. Nobody's Somebody," a number which reminded me of early acoustic Stones, and a great showcase for the sometimes-gravelly vocals of Steve Arvey. Powerful, innovative and energetic, this is my pick hit of the issue. (EP/MG)

WHEN THUNDER COMES, "Eyes of the Wolf" (Frantic Records, 2105 Maryland Ave., Baltimore, MD 21218): These rockers used to call themselves MISSION, but then they found some competition for the name and so took on the name of their second album instead. The album starts off with an arresting, darkly psychedelic tune that draws the listener in, and from there it's a roller-coaster ride through a lot of the rock styles of the past 20 years: pop, art rock, doom-ish stuff. The lyrics are mainly inane or confusing ("Eyes of the wave, I've seen the tide, A state of grace, we bought all they had, One nation under the sun, two flowers blowing...") but the heady guitar work makes up for this. (LP/MG)

WILL TO LIVE, self-titled (Flesh Records, PO Box 5040, N. Bergen, NJ 07047): Amor Fati's band project. There is no question that everything he touches is hyperintellectual and not going to be easily understood by people who think U2 have a heavy message. In fact my first reaction to the EP was how delighted I'd be to play it on college radio. I'd have to say that this is the most straightforward of Amor Fati's projects, and the most effective. Anyone who likes Swans, Sonic Youth or any modern post-punk art-core band should not miss this -- I for one am on tenterhooks waiting for the next Amor Fati release, "The White". I just hope that his extreme devotion to individualism doesn't interfere with continued band efforts with Will to Live. (EP/SW)

YOUR MOM TOO, "England's Newest Hitmakers" (\$4 from Frank Kogan, 625 Ashbury #11, San Francisco, CA 94117): YMT consists of Frank along with Leslie Singer, both playing acoustic guitar and both contributing to the vocals. The A side of this is by the two of them, the B side is solos, first by Leslie and then by Frank. All of the tracks featuring the guitar playing is painfully tedious, and the recording quality is shitty. The couple of tracks that are just Frank show a better sense of music, decent vocals, and intelligent lyrics. If you go for this, wind it halfway through and turn it over before playing. (T/MG)

SEMI-SPOTLIGHT: ST. VALENTINE RECORDS

I can't resist the opportunity to mention some other bands that are on this label or have been as I review 3 singles: NEW SALEM WITCH HUNTERS, "Falling"; THE DIFFI CULT, "Day of St. Christopher"; and SHADOW OF FEAR, "In the Flesh".

It wouldn't quite be fair to call these the dregs or dross of St. Valentine. But I'd like to point out that Death of Samantha and The Reactions went to Homestead Records and The Offbeats got on Relativity. All 3 had their first releases on St. Valentine. The only other band I know of past or present on this label is My Dad Is Dead, the solo project of Mark Edwards [see FF20]. The guys who run St. Valentine have been involved in Cleveland's music scene for quite some time. Kudos to them for getting their proverbial shit together and releasing some great records and furthering the careers of some great troupers.

Now down to the releases in question. Well, the Witch Hunters have a pretty poppy approach to their punk and might even bear some resemblance to The Reactions, or to The Diffi Cult, for that matter. I find it hard to say this is the most...just "there". The B-side is a Beatle-esque cop lyrically.

The Diffi Cult have a damned catchy song in their A-side, "Days of St. Christopher". In fact, it's strong enough to make me wonder why semi-major label Homestead signed The Reactions with a group like this sitting there twice as ripe and sweet. But the B-side is a letdown -- a cover of the old War chestnut "Low Rider" that is absolutely no improvement on previous covers like those by J.F.A. or Jim Capaldi.

Shadow of Fear sound like two different groups on their single. "In the Flesh" is cold wave that isn't gonna earn them the crown against contenders like Red Lorry Yellow Lorry but hasn't gone completely college format like previous cold wavers Killing Joke. Not bad. Then the B-Side is a cover of "Heartbreak Hotel", a song great enough that it's rarely fukked-up. But this version sounds like it was sung by the Chipmunks, or at least not by the same singer as on the A-Side. Still just "not bad". By the by it's a live version of "Heartbreak", and reading the sleeve credits I see a credit to Axton (as in Hoyt?) as well as Presley -- something I'd never realized before.

OK, so as an overview I'd definitely say St. Valentine is a label to watch and hopefully with some of their best talent signed to other labels they'll be adding more Cleveland bands to the roster. Check 'em out and buy up their back catalog. (St. Valentine Records, PO Box 79116, Cleveland, OH 44107/reviewed by SW)

MUSICAL NOTES:

* ALL THE MADMEN (97 Caledonia Rd., King's Cross, London N1, ENGLAND) sells indie records, videos and tapes through the mail. A wide selection of things I've never heard of, including a couple of pages prominently headed "punk". I suppose an IRC would get you this catalog.

* BC TAPES (PO Box 16205, San Diego, CA 92116) put out a new catalog around the end of the year some time. I'm sure you can still get copies for a stamp or two. They've got probably the best collection of international hardcore around, as well as some local stuff.

* CAUSE AND EFFECT (PO Box 30383, Indianapolis, IN 46230) sent me a catalog of all their Dog As Master releases. You can probably get a copy for a couple of stamps. Dog As Master is Hal McGee doing all sorts of strange things with electronics and other noise sources.

* CHRISTIAN INFORMATION BUREAU (PO Box 901335, Dallas, TX 75390-1335) has a whole batch of tapes available on things like those Evil New Agers and "What the Bible says about child training". Prices \$6-\$9.

* FACE THE MUSIC (4049 First St. #125, Livermore, CA 94550) will send you a copy of their giant tabloid catalog for a buck. FTM sells used and new records, books, comix and other music stuff. This is not one of those shops with twelve dozen different AC/DC T-shirt designs but a bunch of good folks who I've done business with myself. Prices start around two bucks.

* GLITCH RECORDS (PO Box 4429, Austin, TX 78765) has released "Glitch Sampler #3 - Hot From the Heart of Texas", an LP showcasing ten local bands.

* HEARTSONG REVIEW (PO Box 1084, Cottage Grove, OR 97424) is accepting independently produced New Age music for review and inclusion in their contact listing.

* MEDIA DISTRIBUTION CO-OP announced the updated version of their International Music Contacts, which lists promoters, distributors, zines, labels, and radio stations in 23 countries around the world. Copies are \$12 deom 1745 Louisiana St., Lawrence, KS 66044.

* POTENTIALS UNLIMITED (4808-H Broadmoor SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508) is selling a cassette called "Astral sounds" for \$16 which "removes physical pain...cures insomnia...reduces stress and anxiety...produces instant and deep relaxation...provides freedom from worry...makes people happy and naturally high" and probably comes with an ownership manual for the Brooklyn Bridge.

* TELLUS, "The Audio Cassette Magazine" has released their issue #16, featuring various tango-inspired pieces. \$7 from Harvestworks, 596 Broadway #602, New York, NY 10012.

AND I SAY, 'THAT NEW BAT BOY'S WEIRD!'



BOOKS

THERE'S NOTHING
LIKE CURLING UP
WITH A GOOD BOOK



I just want to take a moment and remind folks that this section includes pamphlets and other one-shots in addition to more traditional books. And I'm still behind on my book reviewing because reading large chunks of prose is difficult when one is also reading forty books on the rise of engineering in America for a term paper. I'm catching up, though, and expect to be current by the end of the year.

A-Y-O-DOT BOOK OF STICKERS (\$2.50 from Bag of Wire Expose, PO Box 441230, W. Somerville, MA 02144): A small art book with a rather complicated format. The odd-numbered pages each contain a piece of collage art, on a 4" x 5" sticker, designed to adhere to anything public. Under the stickers, the same art is repeated, so the reader does not lose anything by distributing the book around in this fashion. On the even numbered pages are more collage works, bearing little paper flaps that can be lifted to reveal surprises below. At the bottom of these pages are texts in various languages explaining the whole thing as an international art exhibit. Actually, this is all rather attractive, and takes less time to look through and appreciate than it does to describe. (16 pp. with 8 stickers)

Doug Connell, LA CROSSE TIME TRIP 1887 and LA CROSSE TIME TRIP 1937 (\$1.50 each from River City Publications, PO Box 2372, La Crosse, WI 54601): I've been reviewing -- and enjoying -- the booklets in this series for a couple of years now, and I hope Doug continues with them. What these are is summaries of fifty and one hundred years ago in one reasonably sized city (28,000 people in 1887; 43,000 in 1937). Doug excerpts from the newspapers bits and pieces of what went on, trying to include the minor human interest stories as well as the major events -- he tries to include the events that he thinks the people of La Crosse "thought about and talked about". In addition to the chronology, there are other features -- the 1887 edition gives a rundown on the best-known horses in town and pictures of some buildings constructed during the year; the 1937 edition has pictures of the High School class officers and a selection of contemporary ads. Good fun, and a better picture of the average person's life in those days than you'll get from the history books.

Ian Covell (ed.), J.T. McINTOSH: MEMOIR & BIBLIOGRAPHY (\$2 from Chris Drumm, Books, PO Box 445, Polk City, IA 50226): J.T. McIntosh is the main pseudonym of James MacGregor, a rather prolific Scottish science fiction writer who had his first story published in 1950, but who is practically unknown to contemporary fans. This booklet is roughly half autobiographical ramblings, pleasantly told, that explain how he got into the field, and how he picked American magazines to do it in (the postwar paper shortage was severely hampering publication in the British Isles at the time). The second half is a complete (or as complete as the author & editor can make it) bibliography of his works. His fiction sounds like fun -- I'll be keeping my eyes open for any of his older works that I

happen to run across. (32 pp. booklet)

Yael Dragwyla, THE BVI-PACIFICA ANTHOLOGY (\$7.50 from PO Box 1548, Goleta, CA 93116): OK, an up-front warning: Yael prints some Holocaust Revisionism and a pedophilic manifesto here, having adopted the First Amendment as her publishing policy. If that offends you, stay away.

That done, let me say right away that this is a fine anthology of writings that have not appeared in BVI-PACIFICA (the magazine) (though some of them, like Bob Black's "Feminism as Fascism" and Aleister Crowley's "Liber O2" have appeared elsewhere). It starts off with an extensive introduction from Yael, wherein she explains precisely how she feels about publishing outlaw stuff. She's not an anti-semitic (or Judaeophobe, as she prefers to term it) and certainly not, having been abused herself, a child molester. In fact, she's repulsed by some of the things she publishes -- but has the courage to go ahead anyhow, since these works can appear in very few other places.

Besides essays and stories, there are drawings and poems here, plus vaguely SubGeniod collage border art. Some notable pieces: Jake Berry's "Holy Communion", which may offend more people than the Revisionism; L.A. Rollins' "The Psychic Predictions of Arlo N. Sill", being the writings of a latter-day Nostradamus; and "Darth Vader: Daunted", a one-act play by Magistra Batrix, who is obviously greatly influenced in her writing by the eternal Lucas. Plenty of Yael's own poetry and writings are here, but unless you know which pieces are which, you can't tell the players without a scorecard; too many of the authors herein use pseudonyms.

A fun collection, and worth getting just for the eloquent rabid-free-press statement in the opening essay. (107pp. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, bound as four booklets; deluxe \$15 one-volume hand-bound edition coming).

Lloyd Dunn, 66199 (\$2.50 from Bomb Shelter Propaganda, PO Box 1393, Tempe, AZ 85281): A booklet of "iconographics" by the editor of PHOTOSTATIC, published by Mike Miskowski who does MALLIFE. That's the easy part of the review. The hard part is to try to tell you what this book of pictures made up of words and symbols is all about when I don't really know myself. Well, let me just open it at random and describe a page: In the middle there is "99" in bold characters, and spiraling out from it is a hashwork of thick black and white stripes that dazzle the eye. In the one corner, a hand pulls something down with a small magnet. In the opposite corner, a "66" (or another "99"?) lies defeated on its side. A comma wanders by, and behind the stripes are hidden some words which the viewer cannot quite make out. (28 pp. 7 x 8 1/2)

THE GEMSTONE FILE (\$7.50 from Mike Gunderloy, 6 Arizona Ave., Rensselaer, NY 12144-4502): Yes, this is the xeroxed mess that I've been offering for a while. I had another version come in this time, and I think it's time to try and get things under some bibliographic control, so this review is for the most part going to be a listing of what's in the package.

G. Gordon Liddy called his Watergate dirty tricks file "The Gemstone File". My guess is that all of these spinoffs are fantasies about what it might have contained if the country really was run by the Mafia and other conspirators. It makes entertaining reading at the very least.

Here's what I have:

Version S: This I have tentatively identified as the closest to the original source [but see Version O2, below]. It is dated May 1, 1975 [but this may be a date chosen for its association with conspiracy theory] and headed "A SKELETON KEY TO THE GEMSTONE FILE". It is 20 pages, all but the first being numbered. Page 7 has been typed on a different machine than the rest. The first entry is dated 1932 and the last is dated April, 1975. Version S contains what I consider to be the canonical beginning and ending:

"The Gemstone File was written in many segments over a period of years by an American man named Bruce Roberts. Parts of the file were released to certain Americans beginning in 1969. The number of handwritten pages is well over a thousand, of which I have read about four hundred...."

"Copy this report and hand it to friends and neighbors in your community. THE GAME IS NEARLY UP -- EITHER THE MAFIA GOES OR AMERICA GOES."

I have never seen any trace of the alleged thousand pages to which this report is the "skeleton key", and I rather doubt that they exist.

Version T (for Talk): This version is 6 pages long, with the first two numbered 23 and 24 and the rest unnumbered. It contains entries identified by year only, for 1968 through

Version T is interrupted by a page-long "speech" to be made by President Reagan's successor in suspending the Constitution. [This implies a post-1980 date to me.] The entries appear to have been paraphrased and condensed from Version S.

Version G: Published in SHAVERTRON #16 as "THE GEMSTONE FILE". 6 pages long, it substantially matches the first 6 pages of Version S, but there are phrasing differences. This is supposed to be a part of a 23-page long manuscript, which I have not seen.

Version I: The first copy I actually saw, this is labelled "Illuminati Research Report. Subject: The Gemstone File." It is 9 pages long, but the pages are numbered 29 to 37 inclusive. The entries are dated from January 1972 to June 1, 1975. Parts of this match pages 14-20 of Version S, but there is both new material and material left out, and a generally greater level of detail. A later version (compare the dates of the last entries), but from where?

Version O: A title page "OUR DAILY STRUGGLE & THE GEMSTONE FILES" followed by two distinct things:

Version O1: 21 pages of material from one N.K. Fields with an address in West Palm Beach, including some newsletters headed "OUR DAILY STRUGGLE". Fields alleges that he was a courier hired by the Mexican government to take 4 photos and 28 documents to Robert Kennedy detailing his brother's death, and has since then been persecuted by various agencies. The events recounted run from 1965 to December 1984, although apparently it was mostly typed in 1984. Very poor copy.

Version O2: 24 pages substantially identical to Version S, though with different pagination and clearly copied from a different original. The interesting thing about Version O2 is that it is headed by a name and address: "Stephanie Carnana, 75 Prosper St., San Francisco, Ca. 94114". [I have not attempted to follow up on this]. This may in fact be a previous version to Version S, or copied with more accuracy from the same source. It is a very poor photocopy.

(Total: 87 pp. photocopy)

Sean Wolf Hill, FORESTS OF FLESH: ANOTHER TRUE STORY (50 cents (?) from 37 E. Hudson, Dayton, OH 45405): Sean sees the city as a forest of flesh, grown up wild, in the same way that a forest of trees grows and differentiates, and far different from the orchard planned by the original designers. It's an interesting metaphor, but he doesn't really do anything other than explain it at some length. Nicely styled but rather pointless writing. (12 pp. pamphlet)

HOLOCAUST BOOK

This box is here to let people know that there are parts of the following work which I wish to explicitly distance myself from. I do however want to say that this was a very close judgment call, and I think the work deserves wider notice even if it is potentially harmful.

Bradley Smith, CONFESSION'S OF A HOLOCAUST REVISIONIST, PART I (\$4 from 1765 N. Highland Ave. #645, Los Angeles, CA 90028): Putting this one in a warning box was a difficult decision to make, but by excerpting the Revisionist literature on the Holocaust and endorsing it, Bradley associates himself with an odious doctrine. Bradley is one of the people who, upon being enraged by Holocaust Revisionist literature, took the trouble to follow up the stories, reading the works of Faurisson and Butz. Once having done so, he became convinced that they were on to something. This paper is the story of his conversion.

It's an interesting account. No longer believing the standard accounts of the death of six million Jews in the gas chambers during World War II, he's not all the way into the closed-mind "it didn't happen" camp either. He still talks to, and reads, those who believe it did happen. More than an argument for or against the proposition that six million were gassed (though apparently he believes the arguments against this have the upper hand at the moment), CONFESSION'S is a plea for freedom of the press and freedom of thought.

On that count I must concur. The real danger in my mind is not that a particular bit of history might be proved true or false (if indeed any history can ever be proved true or false), but that this country will follow in the footsteps of Canada, Germany and Israel and make it a crime to express certain thoughts. While Bradley does present a rough-and-ready guide to Revisionist literature for those interested in pursuing the matter further (and I for one am somewhat amused by those who condemn Butz's book without even trying to read a copy), the better argument for this work is just to stir the pot a little and encourage free thought. (16 pp. tabloid).

Donald Q. Innis, GREEN GEOPOLITICS (\$2.50 from Intercropping Associates, PO Box 0161, Geneseo, NY 14454): This is mainly a work on large-scale, global politics, but there are a couple of different threads involved. One concern of the author is to try to explain just what is going on out there since World War II, and to show that "out there" and "in here" are closely and crucially linked. In particular, the Cold War comes in for critical examination, not as a political phenomenon, but as an economic prop for American businesses.

Another thread here is the idea of intercropping, which appears to be what got Innis interested in the first place. Intercropping is the growing of two or more crops in the same field, with their rows intermingled, and does good things for the soil and the plants. Innis wants to know why this is actively discouraged by First World workers in the Third World, and suggests that wider use of intercropping (which is a traditional practice in many areas) would help the Third World to feed itself.

Finally, and this is a section that needs expanding, Innis wonders what to do. The measures he proposes are basically educational, questions to make the majority in the rich countries think about what they're doing to the world. The author doesn't propose any panacea, but he does have some sketchily-outlined ideas for the future that he's asking for reader help with.

All in all, this is a provocative work. While I don't agree with everything the author says about geopolitics, I was pleased to note that the book is moderately well supplied with references, and thus the interested reader can do his own follow-up. And the price is right for an introduction to this sort of thinking. (64 pp. digest-sized).

Donna Kossy, THE FALSE POSITIVE SAMPLER (\$10 from Donna Kossy, PO Box 432, Boston, MA 02258): That's the FP subscription price, since Donna seems to have neglected to put a price on the sampler itself. No doubt she'll negotiate something around \$5 if you want. This consists of excerpts from the legendary first six issues of FP, a zine that collects all sorts of kooky material and disseminates it to an unsuspecting world. FP prints stuff that just doesn't float to the surface elsewhere: Dial-A-Rumor, Handle With Care (a text on masturbation), bizarre collages and the ever-popular "Kooks" pages. The sampler has a few pages from each of the first six issues: Technology, Kooks, Japan, Crime, Food & Drugs, and Sex. Plus, you completists should know that this is an all-new color Xerox cover, which means you need to buy a copy right now even if you already have the separate issues. (32 pp. 8 1/2 x 11)

Tuli Kupferberg, KILL FOR PEACE AGAIN (\$1 from Strolling Dog Press, 160 Sixth Ave., New York, NY 10013): Tuli is (for those of you who've been living in a barrel) an ex-member of the Fugs who's turned to cartooning in order to make social points these days. This is a collection of anti-militaristic propaganda including detourned pictures, cartoons, and protest songs (including "Go fuck yourself with your atom bomb") >> There's also a nice selection of disgusting quotes from military leaders past and present, including Ron Reagan's immortal "If it takes a bloodbath let's get it over with" -- which he said in 1968 in reference to student rioting while he was governor of California. (32 pp. 8 1/2 x 11)

WALL MEN

NEW TAPE! SEND \$3.00 TO: WALL MEN 771 LISAN N. SYRACUSE N.Y. 13212 DEAD Judy R.

ONE DEATH TWO LP. \$6.00 WALL MEN \$3.00

John Kurluk, **THE GYPSY WICCAN TAROT INSTRUCTION BOOKLET** (\$3.49 from Mystic Press, PO Box 6186, Baltimore, MD 21231): This is not tied to any particular Tarot deck (the author somewhat diffidently recommends the Rider Waite deck), but is a basic instruction booklet for reading the cards. The system consists of memorizing a set of meanings for the major arcana, a set for colors, a set for suits, and a set for numbers, and applying them as needed, rather than learning specific meanings for every card in the deck.

It's an interesting concept, but the execution is so painfully flawed that I cannot recommend this to anyone. The writing is quite simply lousy -- riddled with spelling, usage, and grammatical errors. A typical chunk of the exposition: "Of the Royal cards, you will first note that there is no numbers to consider in the area of numerology. Therefore you can dispense with considering this definition." The entire work is similarly in desperate need of an editor. (20 pp. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2)

OUR ENEMY, THE PARTY (\$1 for samples from MLL, PO Box 1748, Long Beach, CA 90801-1748): #5 of the Issue Pamphlet series of the Movement of the Libertarian Left. This one is dedicated to demonstrating why the Libertarian Party is a Bad Thing, which I agree with, even though I no longer buy the radical separation of politics and economics which the MLL preaches. But as an analysis of the divergence between libertarian ends and Party means, this is dead on. For your buck you'll get samples of whatever pamphlets and literature happen to be handy around the MLL office.

Richard Peabody & Gretchen Johnsen (eds.), **FICTION/86** (\$7.95 from Paycock Press, PO Box 30906, Bethesda, MD 20814): This is a mammoth double issue of GARGOYLE magazine disguised as a fiction anthology. It's impressive, but since it does try to collect the best of modern fiction, it reflects the shortcomings of that fiction. Specifically, storytelling is often replaced by enigma; vignettes, feelings and moods are all here. There is style aplenty in these works, but characterization and plot are harder to find.

Don't get me wrong. The writers here do what they're doing very well. It's just not, for the most part, what I want to read. Having said all that, I want to point out a pair of wonderful exceptions to the rule, stories that made this whole anthology worth reading for me. William Van Wert's "The Anxiety of Influence" is a curious little story of a spiritual crisis resolved, exploring the trials of Dewey Mather, a priest out of touch with the modern world. David Nicholson's "Among the Righteous" is a bluntly realistic tale of inner-city life, depressing but with a definite story line and a nice resolution.

Also worth mentioning are Laurence Gonzales' "In Country" and Terry Borst's "The Crawl", both of which are amusing enough to support an excess of style. **FICTION/86** is the third volume of a triptych of anthologies, and the complete boxed set is available for \$25. (378 pp. paperback)

PHONE BUDDIES DIRECTORY (\$20 annual dues from 583 Grove St., San Francisco, CA 94102): This comes from St. Priapus Church. In their own words, the basics: "The doctrine of the church holds that unfulfilled urges, such as pain, hunger, fatigue and lust pester the body and the Divine Light within, and thus prevent us from having the inner peace that is necessary to come to Bliss. We believe that sex is to lust as food is to hunger. The directory is published to provide members with a way to rid themselves of the sin of lust. All funds generated by the directory are used to feed the hungry of the Gay Community, thus killing the twin evils of hunger and lust with one stone." In other words, this is a listing of gay men wishing phone sex. Listings are quite explicit and will probably have at least a few ideas to shock anyone. About 150 listings, plus more basic information on the church.

Peter Plate, **AN EXPLODED VIEW** (PO Box 8456, 537 Jones St., San Francisco, CA 94102): A strangely disjointed story of, perhaps, a man on trial before both the court and the world. The protagonist goes with the flow, curiously detached from his situation (frustratingly so at times for the reader unwilling to stop grasping at a story line), and muses on what he finds. "I do not know, but tell me, in this country of ours, isn't it true, that for us in the modern world, capital punishment begins at birth?" Strangely enigmatic and thought-provoking, **AN EXPLODED VIEW** is illustrated with photographs by Dana H. Smith and available for a buck or two to cover mailing. (80 pp. perfect bound)

Sleeping Giant Publications (PO Box 85, S. Chelmsford, MA 01824; checks to Amba R. Coltman): These folks put out a series of chapbooks oriented towards social awareness and change: "rare truths and their real consequences, for you who have eyes to see, ears to hear, minds to think with, and tongues to speak", as their catalog puts it. They've got about a dozen pubs out already, and here's capsule descriptions of the first six. Prices are normally three bucks apiece, but if you mention you're a **FACTSHEET FIVE** reader, you get a discount: \$2 each, for any of these. (Or an SASE will get you their catalog)

S.G. #1: **THE VAMPIRE KING, A TALE OF THE TIMES**: A modern fairy tale of a land not too much different from our own, and what happened when the people began to place too much faith in their king. Ends on a downbeat but cautionary note. (16pp.)

S.G. #2: **THE BRIGHT, BRIGHT BALL, AN ECO-TALE FOR THE BIOSPHERE**: Meet Manny, a spoiled little brat who is, however, quite good with erector sets and that sort of thing. One day he comes into possession of this lovely mostly-blue ball, filled with other Beings, and goes to work on it. As he labors, it gets more dilapidated -- and smaller. But in the end, there may be hope that the ball will fight back. (16pp.)

S.G. #3: **THE VILLAGE THAT IMAGINED...AND WHAT HAPPENED THEN**: This one is a real downer, dealing with the problems of being a prosperous village surrounded by unknown and shadowy, envious enemies. This particular village (named Uss) didn't pick a very good way to fix things. (16pp.)

S.G. #4: **THE LAST INDIAN**: Essentially an illustrated song lyric, from the point of view of one of the country's dispossessed. (28pp.)

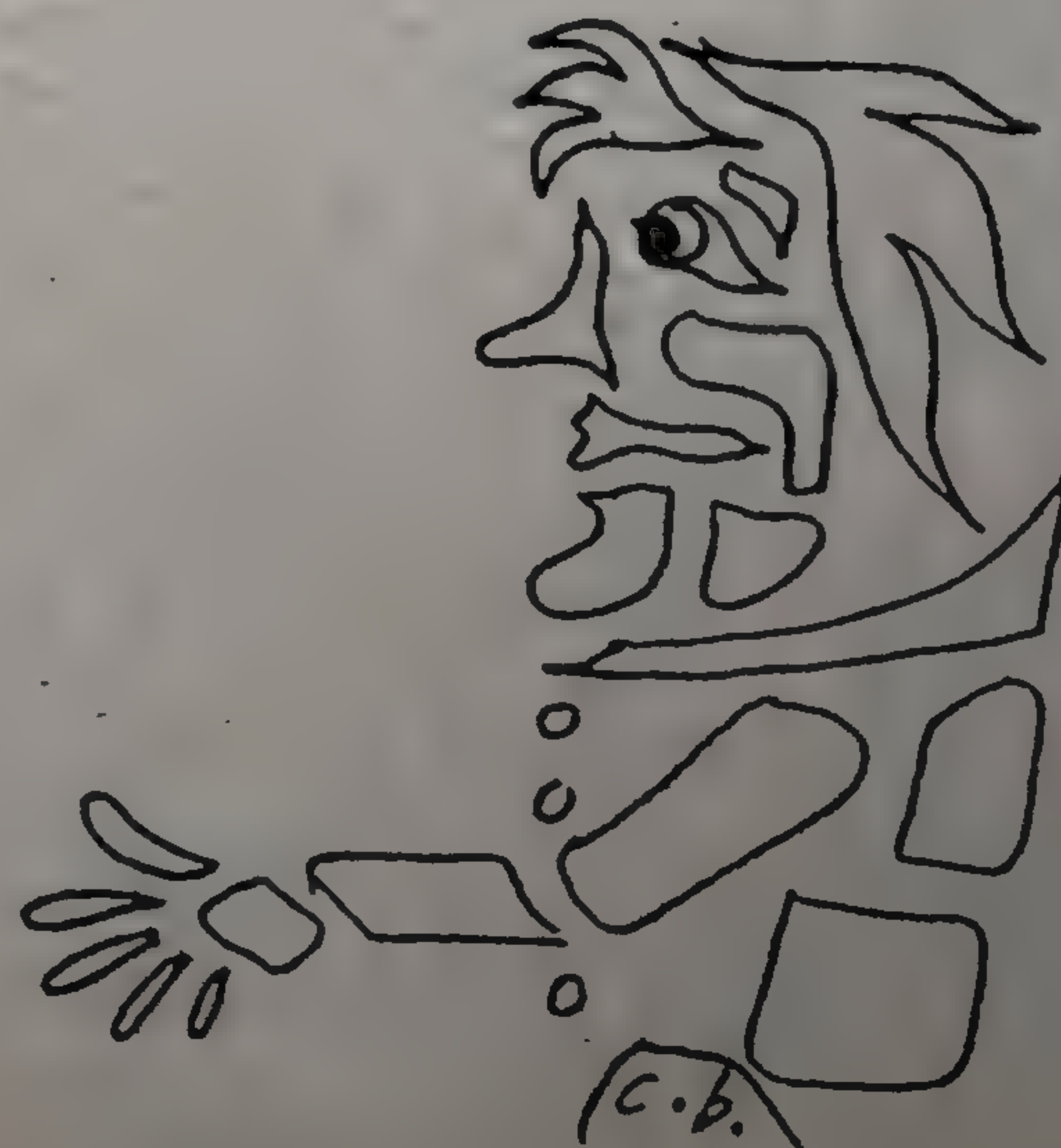
S.G. #5: **SEARCHING FOR DRAGONS**: This one is the real winner of the bunch. It's an illustrated fairy tale in a modern day, about a poor dragon who came to earth in, of all places, Boston. Things in the modern city are not particularly hospitable for dragons, and the people aren't particularly ready for them and...well, read it for yourself and see. (24pp.)

S.G. #6: **MY NUCLEAR TOYS**: A tale of the logical conclusion of the arms race crossed with the drive to find more exciting toys for the kiddies. Probably not what the world is coming to but it's not fun to think about. (16pp.)

In general the Sleeping Giant chapbooks are fun little fairy tales for children or adults. Next time I hope to review some of the more personal Bird of Life tales available from the same address.

Ruth Schowalter & De Villo Sloan, **ALLOY** (Paperbird, 239 E. Glenn, Auburn, AL 36830): An inaugural offering from a new press "dedicated to advancing creators of experimental word works or graphics." What this means is that bits and pieces of letters are used as the building blocks of pictures, xeroxed beyond recognizability. Some of these pages would make good wallpaper, but as far as I'm concerned they are absolutely devoid of meaning. (36 pp. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2)

Chuck Taylor, **DRIFTER'S STORY** (\$7.95 from Slough Press, PO Box 1385, Austin, TX 78767): Chuck Taylor runs a little bookstore in Austin. Marion -- we never get his last name -- is a drifter, a character who shows up in the store one day. Rather than turn him entirely back into the streets, Chuck



plugs in a tape recorder, offers ten bucks a day to converse, and off they go. In the end, we get a picture of life for someone who is not a part of the Great American Dream. The book works, and works well. Although a non-conformist, Marion is not an idiot, and he expresses himself well. Taylor too gets his words on the tape, trying to understand the society that leads to people sleeping in the street and drifting from town to town. Serious social commentary is intermixed with outrageous (and often explicit) stories of Marion's exploits. Seen through the eyes of this character, ordinary people take on a new cast, their lives revealed as a mindless following of patterns imposed from without.

Of course the drifter doesn't have the perfect life either. He gets cold and hungry, he yearns to settle down, he wonders about a son he has. But his aspirations lean more towards a permanent state of drift than a nine to five existence. **DRIFTER'S STORY** is a powerful look inside the human condition as it is shaped -- or unshaped -- by today's world. (173 pp. trade paperback).

Luna Ticks, **BRAIN** (\$2 from 424 S. 45th St., Philadelphia, PA 19104): Subtitled "A Tender Tale of Two Sisters", this one is...disturbing. Part of Luna's "The Young and the Frustrated" series, it has been serialized in a few zines, but it has much more impact as a unified whole, with a surprise centerfoldout. Luna's drawing is hallucinatory, which fits in well with the two personalities here. Vera uses a strange recreational drug to get off, and then establishes mental contact with her sister Singe, who is on a more natural, flagellant high. Though this is too full of explicit sex for some of the punk types (or at least their printers) and too full of punk for the arty erotic types, it will be just right for many FF readers. (26pp. minicomic)

WHAT IS A SIT-DOWN STRIKE? (SASE from WD Press, PO Box 24115, St. Louis, MO 63130): From the folks who put out **WORKERS' DEMOCRACY**, this is an effort to at least explain to people what unions used to be like, before they became co-opted. Sit-downs were popular in the early part of the century, with the 50th anniversary of a great wave of them coming up this year. Workers with a grievance would occupy the plant and refuse to permit production until things were straightened out.

Naturally, this didn't sit well with bosses or the government, and so "real" unions were organized, formal grievance procedures were instituted, and somehow the power of the workers dissipated.

This pamphlet gives the history of the sit-down in a lot more detail (with references), discusses bottom-up organizing as a still-viable alternative to existing collaborative unions, and gives some hints for anyone who might care to organize a sit-down today. (16 pp. pamphlet)

Peter Wick, **SCATTERED LEAVES** (\$3 (?) from Box Dog Press, PO Box 9609, Seattle, WA 98109): This is the second edition, with a new introduction, but as the first press run was only seven copies, I doubt that you've seen it. Peter is one of the new wave of comedians, and this is pretty much a collection of short sketches and monologs, 17 of them in all. The quality varies, with some of them being far too serious to be good comedy. But a couple do stand out: "Little Red Gets Caught" is an agreeably-fractured fairy tale; "I Slam, Therefore I Am" traces the connection between Aristotle and punk rock; and "The French Home" outlines well the dangers of visiting a country where you don't speak the language and the natives are pleased to make fun of you. (48 pp. 7 x 8 1/2)

WRESTLING OBSERVER 1986 YEAR BOOK (\$7.50) and **THE WRESTLING OBSERVER'S WHO'S WHO IN PRO WRESTLING** (\$17.50 from Dave Meltzer, PO Box 1228, Campbell, CA 95009-1228): Two books from the guy who publishes **WRESTLING OBSERVER**, the fanzine. Whatever you may think about the sport (or spectacle) of pro wrestling, the zine -- and these books -- are an outstanding job of amateur publishing.

The **YEAR BOOK** is basically two things: a wrap-up of the biggest stories in wrestling in 1986, and the result of a year-end poll of wrestling experts. (Interestingly enough, Hulk Hogan did not get one single vote as Wrestler of the Year among those in the know). Poll results take up most of the space, with not just the numbers but extensive comments and reasoning being reported. The news gives run-downs on the top 10 stories of the year, full of details -- the estimated take

from **Wrestlemania II**, the career of Gino Hernandez, who died of cocaine OD, and so on. Carefully picked and written. (64 pp. 8 1/2 x 14)

The **WHO'S WHO** is a mammoth compilation that will tell you everything you need to know to become an instant expert on the sport, wow your friends, and get a dream date with Cyndi Lauper. It starts off with a rundown of the 20 or more promotional companies, each claiming to have the World Champion, each with their own stable of personalities and quirks. From there it goes straight into wrestler biographies, around 300 of them. These are not the publicity crap put out by the wrestlers themselves, but the real dope, with actual names (Nikita Koloff was born Scott Simpson), age, years in the business, height and weight, hometown, affiliation, and so on. The stats are followed with capsulized biographies that trace both the actual careers and the promo moves, and an evaluation of wrestling skill. The book wraps up with quickie bios of the major managers and valets on the scene. (141 pp. 8 1/2 x 14)

Joseph W. Zarzynski, **MONSTER WRECKS OF LOCH NESS AND LAKE CHAMPLAIN** (\$8.95 & \$1 postage & handling from M-Z Information, PO Box 2129, Wilton, NY 12866): Zarzynski has been on the trail of Champ and Nessie (the large underwater animals that may inhabit, respectively, Lake Champlain and Loch Ness). Along the way, he's run across a lot of other interesting things. This is not another book about the Loch Ness Monster -- if you want the full story of the various sightings and searches, look elsewhere. Instead, Zarzynski writes about the other stuff.

It's a varied bag. Along the way you'll run into a few shipwrecks, a possible megalithic site underwater in Loch Ness, a Wellington bomber raised from the depths of the Loch, a "Nessie" made for the movies but lost in the waters, an aerial search for Champ, a fort built in the wrong country by accident, and a lot more. Altogether there are twenty-nine short chapters here. They're short because, unlike some other researchers in the field, Zarzynski doesn't pad. He gives the documented facts, footnotes them, and moves on to something else. This may leave some fans of the outre feeling a bit cheated, determined to have their mysteries dressed up, but it makes for a more reasonable book.

Of particular interest to me were a couple of addresses he passed on: The International Society of Cryptozoology is at PO Box 43070, Tucson, AZ 85733 and the Champlain Maritime Society is at PO Box 745, Burlington, VT 05402. The book is lavishly illustrated with photographs. In fact, about the only complaint I have is that the maps aren't big enough or prominent enough -- they should, perhaps, have been on the endpapers instead of buried in the back. (111 pp. trade paperback)

BOOK NOTES:

* **A-ALBIONIC CONSULTING AND RESEARCH** (PO Box 20273, Ferndale, MI 48220) carries a good stock of out-of-print and rare books on conspiracy theories of all types. Expect to pay through the nose, but if you get seriously interested in this sort of thing there's damned few other places to shop.

* **A.C.C. SERVICES** (2553 Texas Ave. So. #C, College Station, TX 77840) has a couple of books out including "Intelligence Report on secret Soviet/Mexican preparation for RED DAWN attack upon the United States". \$16 for that one or SASE for more info.

* **ACTION LINKAGE's** founder Robert Theobald has got his book, **THE RAPIDS OF CHANGE**, out in hardcover. It is in the tradition of **THE THIRD WAVE** and **MEGATRENDS** and although I have not seen a copy, the reviews it's gotten are quite good. More info: Knowledge Systems, Inc., 7777 W. Morris St., Indianapolis, IN 46231.

* **BIBLE-SCIENCE ASSOCIATION** (2911 E. 42nd St., Minneapolis, MN 55406) has got a batch of books for sale including Creationism primers for kids and refutations of the scientific evidence for evolution.

* **BOOKS OF THE UNUSUAL** (One Lakewood Plaza, Lakewood, NJ 08701) carry a stock that is quite reminiscent of Loompanics, though the selection is not as good. However, they also stock some strange videotapes, which Loompanics doesn't yet carry. No cover price on the catalog, a fanzine this size would be about a buck but you can probably get one on request.

* **THE CROSS ROAD LIBRARY** (RFD 1, Lubec, ME) is a lending

library of Gandhian and similar books on non-violence and self-change as a means to changing society. Books are available for loan by the mail for four weeks. Send an SASE for more information and the current shelf list.

* CULTURAL SURVIVAL (11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge, MA 02138) has just published a catalog of books "concerned with the rights of indigenous and ethnic people". Their works cover all continents and plights.

* CHRIS DRUMM, BOOKS (PO Box 445, Polk City, IA 50226) has just put out his 16th catalog of SF. Hundreds of out-of-print soft and hardcover books at reasonable prices. Chris also publishes his own little booklets -- both bibliographic checklists and otherwise unpublished works by such big names as Lafferty and Sladek. A nice request ought to get you a catalog.

* EDITIONS (Boiceville, NY 12412) is a mail-order seller of used books. They issue monthly catalogs with thousands of books at prices from \$3 to \$300, and you can get a sample catalog for \$1. I've had good luck ordering from them, and found some real bargains (also -- the disadvantage of shopping by mail -- a few real clunks).

* EVERYDAY BOOKS (PO Box 806, Willimantic, CT 06226) is my good friends Alison and Pablo, who stock a wide range of books on things like anarchy, poetry, Taoism, feminism, alternative history, and more. They also stock some hard-to-find music, buttons, and a growing selection of fanzines and small magazines. Their shop is on Main St. in Willimantic and if you ever get to the state of Connecticut you must visit. Until then, a few stamps will get you on the list for their mail-order catalog.

* THE HIMALAYAN INSTITUTE (RR1, Box 400, Honesdale, PA 18431) has published its combined Spring course listing and book catalog. 48 pages, copies on request. This is a translation of Yoga to the West.

* IGNATIUS PRESS (15 Oakland Ave., Harrison, NY 10528) is a mail-order house devoted exclusively to Catholic books. They do their own publishing, and are working on a multi-volume set of G.K. Chesterton's works.

* LINDSAY PUBLICATIONS (PO Box 12, Bradley, IL 60915-0012) stocks and incredible array of books for the do-it-yourselfer; not only for the guy who wants to fix a storm weindow, but the gal who wants to build a complete iron foundry, build a steam-powered airplane, or build a milling machine. Reprints of old works and new, a fantastic wish book for the tinkerer. \$1 gets you the catalog.

* LOOMPANICS (PO Box 1197, Port Townsend, WA 98368) is THE place to go for unusual and suppressed books. Their catalog alone is nearly 200 pages long, listing and describing hundreds or thousands of books. Just a few of the categories: Self-sufficiency, Frauds and Con Games, Silencers, Science and Technology, Sex and Drugs, Murder and Torture, Crime and Police Science, Fake ID...The catalog also publishes articles of interest; this time around Bob Black talks about the underground and Kurt Priebe discusses "Management of Indoor Growing Operations". A goldmine of information. Send a buck or

even two for this fat list of books to faunch after.

* McCLINTOCK BOOKS CATALOGUE 23 (25 cents from PO Box 3530, Warren, OH 44485-0530): Dave McClintock sells various and sundry science fiction, fantasy and related books, mainly collectors items, though prices range from \$6 to \$895 (for the final two author's manuscript versions of Phil Farmer's DARK IS THE SUN). All sorts of things here I'd buy if I had the money, which is not to say that they aren't reasonably priced.

* NEWSLETTER NUMBER 58 (PO Box 806, Willimantic, CT 06226): This is Mark Ziesing's mostly-SF catalog, though he stocks fantasy and other odds and ends like Ferret T-Shirts (see NEWS in this FF). Mark is my connection for new SF and fantasy -- he can get it for you, ships it at a reasonable price, and is a human being, unlike the droids who work the special order desk at Waldenbooks. Mark also stocks older stuff and some collector-type editions when they come to his attention. AND he publishes major works under his own imprint -- recent things have come from Bishop, Wolfe, and Dick. You can catch him at major SF conventions, visit the store in Willimantic that he shares with the Everyday Books folks, or send a few stamps to get on his mailing list. You ought to do at least one of these.

* PLYMOUTH ROCK FOUNDATION (14 McKinley Cir. PO 425, Marlborough, NH 03455-9990) has published JUDICIAL SUPREMACY, a book which attacks the notion that the Supreme Court can legally interpret the Constitution. \$5.95 retail.

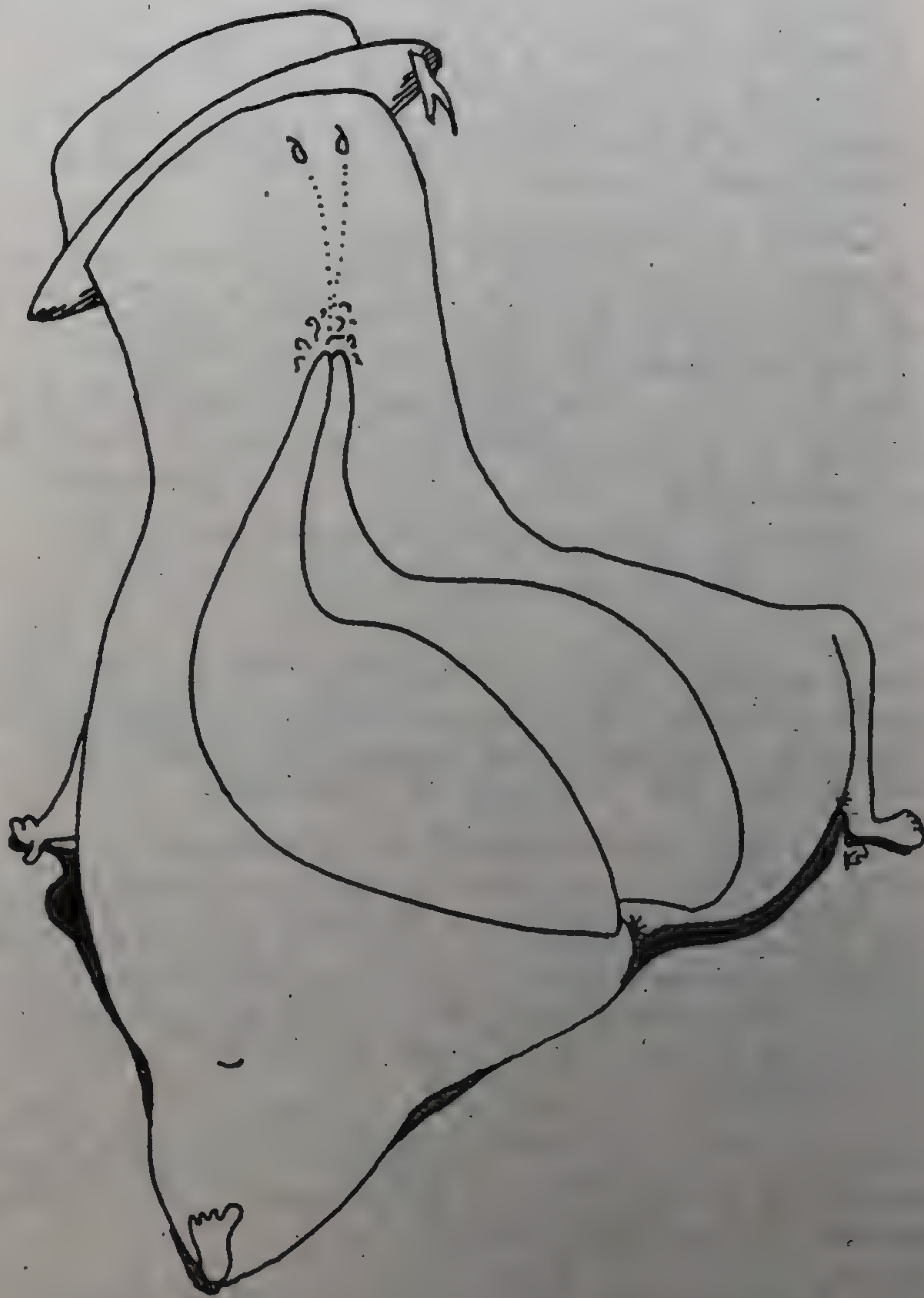
* PYRAMID BOOKS (214 Derby St., Salem, MA 01970) stocks a wide range of New Age books, eastern art reproductions, quartz crystal pendants, Tarot cards, and so on. Catalog probably on request.

* SPIRAL PUBLICATIONS (8 King St., Glastonbury, Somerset, BA6 9JY, U.K.) publishes how-to manuals on astral projection, visualization, and psychic exploration. An IRC should get you their list.

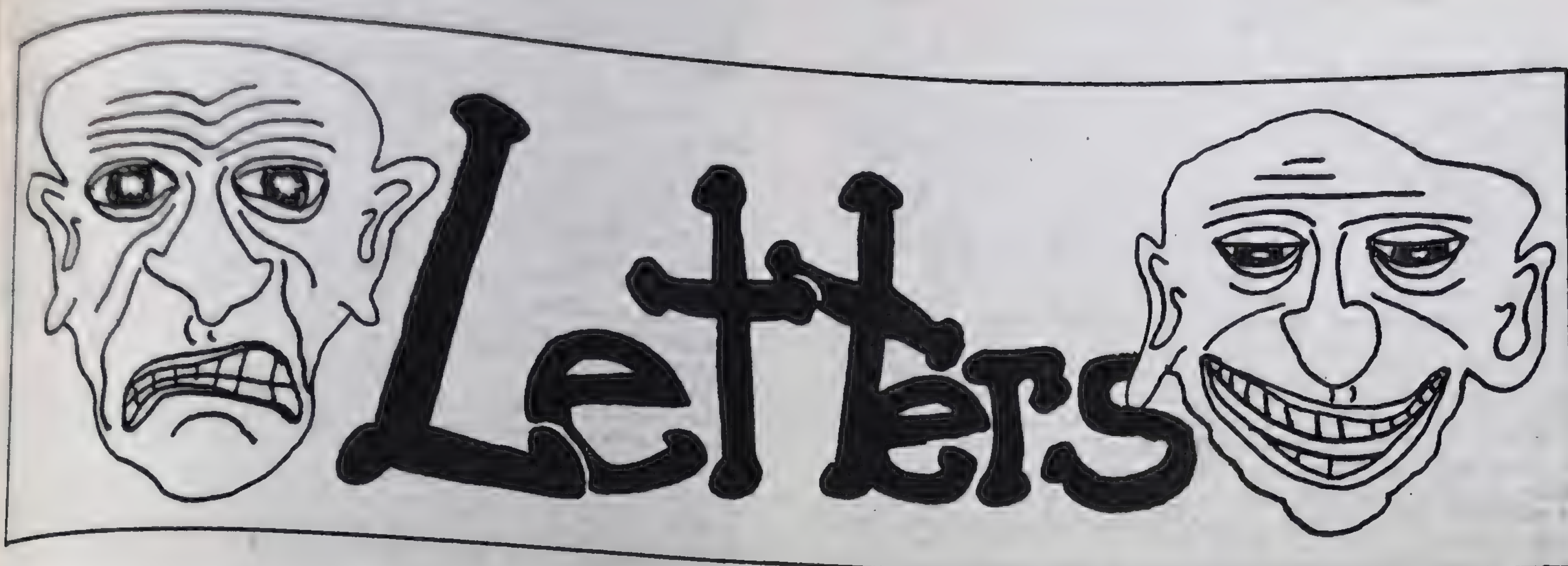
* ULTRAMARINE PUBLISHING (PO Box 303, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706) sell a variety of collector's SF books, including one of the recent bizarre trend, a title with Phil Dick's signature pasted in from one of his old checks. They have a catalog of scarce books and a list of their won editions both available on request.

* WATERMARK WEST (149 N. Broadway, Wichita, KS 67202) sells rare books by mail. They sent me a copy of their Catalogue 5, featuring 20th Century literature: everyone from Hemingway to Chandler to Asimov to Wodehouse. Prices start around fifteen bucks and climb into the hundreds.

* YOUTH ACTION (PO Box 312, Alexandria, VA 22313) publishes a series of "intelligence reports" on such things as Soviet Weatherwar technology and the various nasties done to us by the Triateral Commission and the bankers. \$25 gets you the whole ball of wax.



'SUNBATHER' K. SUTTERLAND '85



Letters

/* As always, anything within these slash-and-star brackets is written by the Aeditor. */

Looking over FACTSHEET FIVE 21 I am bothered to see neo-nazi and rightist publications reviewed outside of the "Hate Literature" column...in particular I'm thinking about "Journal of Historical Review" and Michael Hoffman II, among others. In the marketplace of ideas, you're advertising some pretty rancid commodities...to offer anti-semitic and racist and downright fascist ideas is pretty questionable to me. When you review rightwing/neo-nazi zines outside of the hate literature column and without critical and condemning comment, then you give validation and legitimacy to those journals; you are saying that their ideas (of racism, sexism, anti-semitism, fascism) are as desirable as visions of non-hierarchical, anti-authoritarian, liberatory thought. I am not calling for the suppression of any journal...I think they should be ignored if not criticized.

--Freddie Baer
PO Box 410151
San Francisco, CA 94141-0151

/* 3 points:

1. I should have put Hoffman in a special "Hate Books" box all his own. JHR is a difficult judgment call, but I feel at least some of the authors are trying to do serious history.

2. I agree, there are some rancid commodities in the pages of FF, but I think there's a difference between informing and advertising. I do not endorse any of the hate publications. I try to make it clear what ideas any zine is pushing and let my readers choose which ones to read.

3. Just to repeat a previous assurance, I don't send trade copies to any of these people, and the hate literature I review comes to me second-hand. */

Firstly, with regard to Eduard Markov. He's since asked that no further action be taken. I suspect he's discovered the hard way that things can get worse if he complains. Further information is available from Dov Rigal, 68 Eden Road, London E17, NOT ME.

Can you mention the apa I run, please? It's called The Organisation, and is loosely based in the sf subculture. It's just coming out of a bad patch, and is looking for new members. Postage costs are dealt with on a personal account basis, and sample mailings are available from me for 2 IRCs.

I can't find it right now, but somewhere in this issue you were sneering at someone who had this theory that Adam was originally a hermaphrodite -- well, before the Bible was rewritten to suit the patriarchy, he was. He was two people joined either at the sides or back to back, who were split apart to make male and female. Obviously, the patriarchy didn't like this, as it implies that women are more than just a toy god made for man's amusement.

Finally, can you mention next time that Buiscuit and

Zetetic are available on tape now, in return for a 90 minute cassette tape.

--Joy Hibbert

/* The two-fronted beast, eh? Anybody got any references on this theory?

I'm pleased to see at least two fanzines are now available on tape. Joy doesn't mention it, but it wouldn't hurt to send a couple of IRCs to cover the cost of shipping the tape back to you. */

I am an anthropologist working on a Ph.D here at the University of Illinois. I decided to explore the underground work of comix, art, etc....

As I am writing this paper or mine, and could use more and more input...let people 'out there' know I am doing research in their area of interest and would like to hear from them. I would be interested in samples, letters that would inform me of how they do what they do, why they do what they do, and any and all autobiographical, historical information they want to hand me. I'm interested in the histories of individual presses, their economic situations, law suits, problems, glories, doldrums, and surprises.

--Paul Benson

2104 W. White St. #105
Champaign, IL 61821

SEX OVER FORTY, which you reviewed somewhat uncertainly, is published by PHE Inc., PO Box 1600, Chapel Hill NC 27515. It's a legit newsletter, edited by a doctor. Twelve issues a year and it was founded in 1982. Sub price \$36.

My information comes from HUDSON'S NEWSLETTER DIRECTORY, an annual, published by Howard Penn Hudson, 44 W. Market St., PO Box 311, in your neighboring town of Rhinebeck NY 12572. Your readers ought to know of this fine directory, but they should probably look it up in their public library, since it costs \$75, plus NY sales tax if sent to a NY address.

--Hal Speer

/* Last issue I asked whether anybody bothered to read all of the reviews; quite a few people answered. Here's a sampling of the responses: */

I do read all of your reviews, etc. I however usually first look for what's said about my zine, and what's said about other zines whom I'm personally in contact with. Then LIVE & DIRECT to the "Letters" section -- the best indicator I know of short of personally knowing your readers to gauge interest and vitality.

--Brad Ott

I scan the whole review section - looking for keywords - political, gay, sf, punk, whatever - to decide whether or not to read the review. I recall basic library review training - get it down short what it is and how it can be used. You do that and I like it. Also since the pages are so innocuous

looking, I read the reviews at work.

--Ann Wilder

Well, I try to. FF is pretty absorbing, it's one of the two pieces of mail that I cannot resist reading at work. There's just no two ways about it, I have to keep looking and checking off zines. Oh well. I must admit, there are plenty of categories I skim over a little. But even then, sometimes if the review is interesting I'll read it. Reading ALL the reviews helps me see where our differences lie, and send for something even if you don't like it. There have been times when I didn't like a zine, but your review changed my mind.

--Luke McGuff

Hey! Your idea to some day open up your collection to the public is a great one! I'm sending along a complete collection of TWISTED IMAGES by Book Rate for the FF5 archives...Also, have you ever considered a special column of zines that will trade?

--Ace Backwords

/* Thanks for the zines, Ace; I think every publisher should consider following your example. Actually, the FF archives are already open to researchers by appointment; just call me if you want to drop in.

As for zines that trade, everything listed (with maybe 1% exceptions) trades with me. Zine editors mostly don't seem to make their trading conditions explicit; I started sending postcards to prospective trades for a while because the response rate, even when sending something as large as FF, is only about 20%. */

When you finish your thesis/dissertation PLEASE make it available to we readers!

--Truce Quistarc

/* I was quite amazed, but I actually got three or four requests along these lines. Every time I think I know how nutty my readers are, I get another surprise. Anyhow, I will make my thesis (or theses; I may be going into a doctoral program) available when it's done. But don't expect the price to be too low, as it's liable to be a couple of hundred pages. More details perhaps as soon as this fall. */

Thanks for your mention in Factsheet Five. I've been receiving requests for free or trade copies from all over the world.

I do feel that you may have missed the basic point of the magazine in your haste to cover so many, however. We are very much concerned with the roots of rock and roll, and only cover aspects of the music scene that show strong evidence of these roots....

Perhaps you tend to lean toward the attitude that rock and roll's main purpose is to smash tradition, to create what's new for new's sake. I don't agree with that attitude at all. It may be that rock and roll is a pagan tradition, straining against the repression of hundreds of years of Christian domination, but that doesn't mean rockers should try to destroy their own traditional roots, which I think has a tendency to happen, in some circles.

Call me an old fogey if you like, but BLUE SUEDE NEWS has a circulation of 6000 up here, and is a well-respected publication -- perhaps partly for our editorial attitude of turning people on to what's good that we see, and leaving any negative attitudes out of the magazine. I don't know what makes you think an audience for roots rock would be hard to find -- Fats Domino and Chuck Berry drew some pretty big crowds up here. Just what kind of crusade are you on?

--Marc Bristol, BLUE SUEDE NEWS

/* Actually, I'm not on any crusade at all, and I'd rather listen to Chuck Berry than a lot of what ends up on vinyl or tape these days. As far as I'm concerned, the purpose of rock (if it has one) is to have a good time, and roots rock is great for that. As for my remark about an audience being hard to find these days, I can only plead that reading two zillion hardcore zines has ruined my mind. */

I was thinking: have you considered putting your reviews into more specific group headings (such as sci-fi/relig-occult/fanzine-punkulture/artzine/etc.)? I've only seen the last 2 issues, but for those of us more interested in some things than others, who use FF not just for entertainment (of which it does have value) but as a reference guide in communicating w/others it takes quite some time just to get an address.

Some obvious problems would be the many mags, which would need sub-group headings or that fit into more than one

category. Also, if it weren't in a pell mell alphabetical order many people might not discover some of the wondrous materials being published on other subjects, in genres other than their own.

--Scott Dohring

/* Actually, the main problem is that every time I suggest doing such a thing the readers get all upset and write me nasty letters. In fact, I think there are people who would like to go back to the days when there was no order, not even alphabetical, in FF. However, I try to sneak in some order now and then despite these people. You may have noticed the rotating boxed sections and special guest reviews. I figure that a few of these each issue serves to focus on some subjects, and in time they'll all get covered. Also, if you're really interested in only one genre, you can always order a custom mailing list from me and use it as an index. */

Congratulations on getting out an issue with the pages in order. However, you are still dogged with sequential stumbling blocks. I am referring to the listing of zines whose title begins with a number. The basic rule is to spell out the number and list alphabetically by that spelling. You don't do this. Some people will list numbers separately but will list in numerical order. You don't do this either. What is your rule?

--Pressurized Sperm Aerosol

/* It's simple. actually; I collate in standard ASCII sequence, using the title as it appears on the zine. Thus numerals appear before any letters, spelled out numbers appear in their usual order, and shorter appears before longer. Thus, a partial sequence, alphabetized by my rules: 1, 10, 100, 2, 3, 7, 7000, 9, EIGHT, EIGHTY, NINE, TWENTY, TWO All clear now? */

People with money read your mag; I get the most sample copies of SCORE sold through your listing. Because "eclectic" is inadequate, what one or two words would you use to describe Factsheet?

--Crag Hill

/* Not only is "eclectic" an understatement, but it's prone to semi-literate fanzine editors printing "electric" instead. But I must admit I haven't found a better word. "Sweeping", "open-minded" and "brain-damaged" all pick up part of the FF Weltanschauung, but they're inadequate too. Actually, as I'm typing this I've been at it for twelve hours straight, and "idiotic" springs to mind as a good word. */

I came upon Bob Black's essay in BOSTON REVIEW (August 1986), and I'm trying to compile a bibliography of work about the marginal/underground/itty bitty press/society. Problem is, the tools at my disposal aren't ideal -- the library I work at doesn't carry, for example, ALTERNATIVE PRESS INDEX. Anyways, if you could circulate a request to others on my behalf, I'd appreciate it.

--Eric Sinclair

704 Gilchrist

College Stn, TX 77840

Thank for your review of CANCER #4, it is appreciated, but I think that your perception of that issue was off a bit.

It was never my intention or goal to "mix" punk and politics in CANCER or to make a connection between activism and music. Animal rights and music and art etc....are all great interests of mine. The reason that I publish CANCER is to provide an outlet in which I can express those interests.

If key chains and sperm interested me, I would probably do a publication on things like that. So, as you can see, the connection between punk & politics in my zine is coincidental. As for people passing my ideas off as "youthful rebellion", at age 20 I think that I left that point behind 5 years ago.

--Brian Shapiro

/* At age 28, I'm still youthfully rebellious, and hope to remain that way for some years yet. */

/* Here's another update on the WONDERLAND situation, an attempt at state suppression of the free press that civil libertarians and radicals in general are ignoring completely. (See FF21 for more details.) The writer's identity is unknown to me, and will probably stay that way. */

We were happy to see our nearly unedited letter appear in your magazine. Glad to be of help. And thanks for your

editorial comments championing the rights of us degenerates to write about and discuss our warped view of life. Your quoting Menninger was most appropriate; PLAYBOY (and others) ought to readily see this progression; but instead of defending the rights of all under the first amendment it (and most others) have chosen the path of feeding suspected child pornographers -- who are those deviates not equating pictures of naked kids with Nazi gas chambers -- to the wolves in an effort to save themselves. It will not work; it never has. It only intensifies the wolves' bloodlust.

But we write mainly to let you know that David Techter is out of jail. After 8 1/2 months in prison awaiting trial, his case was thrown out in early February when the judge ruled the law he was charged with violating was unconstitutional. He was released. Justice has prevailed. Too bad he's busted flat and all his possessions were trashed because he couldn't afford to store them and he must now file suit to get his WONDERLAND files (and typewriter, can you believe) back from the state.

David intends to revive WONDERLAND, but says it will take a bit of time. You may write him at his old address -- 2520 N. Lincoln #25-B, Chicago, IL 60614 -- but send a stamped envelope and maybe even a sheet of paper on which he can reply.

Discussion of sex and children is being discouraged by the State except when it follows the accepted script. In addition to the Schuytens are the separate cases of David Sonenschein and Valida Davila.

David is an independent researcher of pedophilia and child sex and a former researcher at the Kinsey Institute. He has published several pamphlets (unillustrated), one for which he still faces charges in Austin; the city sees it as obscene. He has after 3 years now been found not guilty of a more serious charge of promoting sexual performance by a child, which meant two convicts claimed he Xeroxed a dirty picture. He was originally sentenced to 10 years.

San Diego police raided 84-year-old Valida Dvila in 1984 and seized all her records. Even though it was months later determined the woman had violated no laws, the move ended her organization -- Children's Sensuality Circle -- as she had not the funds or health to fight.

Keep up the good work.

As to response rate of trade requests, it's about 30-50% on the average, sometimes higher. Dollars work better than anything else. Most people can't afford to trade as much as they want. It's a great hobby but a fairly expensive one as well....

One thing sf fandom can provide to other networks is the idea of social context/contact. Everything from local cons to regional conventions. I was telling Joe about cons, and he blurted out with, "I'd like a convention for people who do zines," meaning people like Denise Dee and the Ohio crowd, etc. I think it's a great idea, and we're going to start talking about it at Minicon. It may be as early as July, it might be as far from now as April 88, which is only a little more than a year anyway. What do you think? All the plans are very nebulous, and we're open to suggestions. The basic idea would be to meet other people who do different types of zines, spending a weekend hanging out and talking loud and long. It might be in a hotel in Minneapolis, but if we can come up with a loft or some other kind of big location, we'd go with that. Hey! I'm asking for feedback. Would you come?

--Luke McGuff

/* I think it's a great idea, and if it happens I'll be there, even if I have to mortgage the dog to pay for the plane tickets. A few years back the FLIPSIDE people were talking about a zine convention, but they were working within the punk zine community only and couldn't find enough interest. But now a lot of us have the image of a much wider network of zines, so it might be time to try again. My only advice would be to start small, and work up to something impressive in a few decades if that's what folks decide they want to do. */

Could you please give me info on your ISSN number, what it does, where to get it, etc.?

--Michael Listman

/* "The ISSN (International Standard Serials Number) is an internationally accepted code for the identification of serials: magazines, journals, newspapers, and the like....Use of the ISSN provides serials publishers, librarians, and agencies, abstracting and indexing services with a tool for purveyors of computer-based reference services with a tool for economically communicating basic bibliographical information with a minimum of error....A data base of all ISSN assignments made throughout the world is maintained in Paris..." So sayeth the Library of Congress. In addition, before you can mail

anything at second-class rates, the Post Office requires you to have an ISSN. Write to NSDP, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540 for more information or to get a registration form. */

I feel very bad about your using CLOSEST PENGUINS as a yardstick...when you say "not as good" it sets some kind of competition that I don't think we need....Please don't compare things in good/bad form because they're different people with different brains & ideas and I feel like I'm hurting them even though you said it!...I don't think you need a separate poetry section. I also feel bad that the BEST OF CP was in the Book section. It's thick & a one-time so I guess that's why you said "book" but I don't think most CP fans would even think to look in the book section. I would have rather been in the main section....I also think the poetry reviewer is trying to be in some literary mag with her discourses & misses the whole energy & honesty of the scene.

--Denise Dee

/* You're right, I shouldn't use CP as a yardstick -- not because comparisons are bad, but because doing so doesn't give people as much of an idea of the zine being reviewed as a straight description does. So I won't do it again.

As for the separate sections, I feel FF needs some sort of minimal order. Poetry is split off simply because I do not feel competent to review it, and I won't mix other people's zine reviews in with my own. You should have seen the nasty letters I got back when I did do all the poetry reviewing myself. As for the Books section, I've tried to make it clear that it is for one-shots of all types; maybe what I need is another name.

You're not the first person to complain that Alison is trying to apply inappropriate literary standards to small press poetry. Frankly, I'm confused by this. Sometimes I will mention that a zine seems energetic, but only if it's also decently well-done. A pfanzine that confused punk with C&W, or thought Black Flag played classical music, would get a bad review from me, no matter how energetic and honest it was. And I think the same standards should be applied to poetry zines: if they're not good poetry, fukkem. And unfortunately, most all of the poetry I get is not good. */

The government's protectors (the FBI) probably read FACTSHEET FIVE just so they can keep posted on which names to monitor.

--Dave Szurek.

/* Well, if they do, I wish they'd pay for their copies instead of stealing them out of the mail. What about that package that never made it to Connecticut, you guys? */

I stayed up all night last night ordering weird shit from your list. Now my paycheck is missing and all I have is a few extra stamps.

--Thaddeus

/* I'm beginning to think that someone should organize Mailaholics Anonymous. */



J. fringe

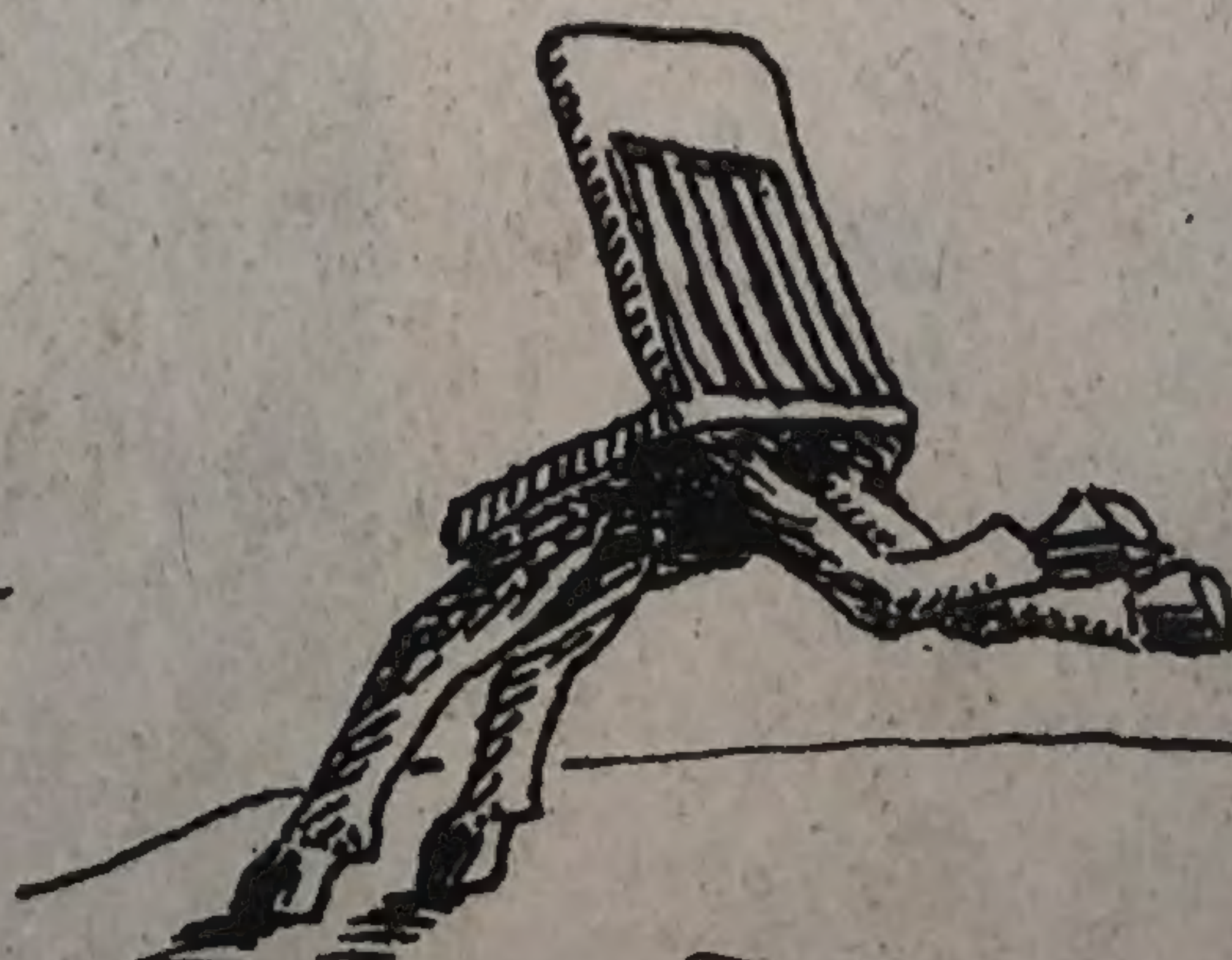
Past Blasts

FACTSHEET FIVE #2, May 29, 1982, 7 pages. Dittoed with a press run of 75 copies, this one was 3 1/2 weeks after #1, three times as long (the seventh page was a copy of my wedding announcement), and with a 50% higher print run. There was also a premature announcement of the FF Computer Bulletin Board (then called The System), which is only now, five years later, getting started.

Zine reviews took up three pages, and include a number of things that were quite good and are now out of business: THE INTERNATIONAL FLAT EARTH SOCIETY (actually, they may still be operating, but they raised the membership rates in late '82 to drive all the unbelievers out), THE POLITICAL BIZARRO PARTY (one of Luke McGuff's old projects), THE SURREALIST WORKERS PARTY, CHURCH OF THE LATTER DAY PUNKS, and MASTER MONOGRAPH. Zines that are still in business that were reviewed in #2 include the LIBERTARIAN FUTURIST SOCIETY (then just getting organized, now publishers of PROMETHEUS, which they're too stuffy to trade with me), THE STARK FIST OF REMOVAL (a 200+ page issue is due any day now, and has been since 1986 or before), and INSIDE JOKE.

There were three pages set aside for book reviews in #2, first of a long series of innovations. It gives a pretty good idea of what I was reading in those days, since I used to mention every new book I read: Tom Robbins, James Kunen, RCW Ettinger, David Friedman, Don Pendleton, Ivan T. Sanderson, Warren Murphy, Ian Fleming, Robert Ludlum, and Carlos Castenada are among the authors reviewed. My skepticism was already getting established:

"A SEPARATE REALITY, by Carlos Castenada (Pocket pb 1972): The burning question, of course, is 'Is it real or a fake?' Well, I don't really think all this stuff actually happened to Castenada, but I'm willing to believe he spent time with the Yaquis, did some dope, and ruined his mind. Not the 'how-to' instructions for self-liberation that it's sometimes billed as, but interesting nonetheless."



The 1987 "Killer Frog" story poetry & art contest

Open Apr 1, 87
Closed Aug 1, 87

For our purposes 'killer frog' is defined as a horror story so bad or overdone it's funny. A killer frog poem is also inept or merely silly. The art should be in keeping with this theme of overdone horror.

Categories:

Short story: 1500-4000 wds (play or script format okay), prize \$5

Short-short: 1500 wds or less prize \$5

Art: the cover drawing is for a space 8 1/2 x 5 1/2 (digest sized) so aim for that, though some drawings chosen for the inside will be reduced. The antho will derive its name from the winning drawing. b&w line preferred, some black areas okay. Photocopies recommended for art submissions, though I will endeavor to return originals in good condition, prize \$5

Poetry: nothing over 50 lines, any style, prize \$5

SASE for what you want back

All winners will also receive the coveted 'froggie' award created by artist Vicky Rubottom (I'm not sure she wants credit for this). Rights acquired as the same as for Scavenger's; reprints fine with copyright info.

Entry fee: \$1 for each item entered. Every entrant, regardless of the number of entries, receives one complimentary copy of the antho, which will go on sale at a slightly higher rate after the contest. (I'm expecting it to be a bit larger this year) To find out what made the grade last year, check out a copy of FROGS CROAK AT MIDNIGHT, still on sale at \$1.

To charges leveled that the killer frog contest is a silly, frivolous waste of time, I reply YES, IT IS, ISN'T IT! So enter often--I'll be glad you did.

Send entries to: Janet Fox, 519 Ellinwood, Osage City KS 66523



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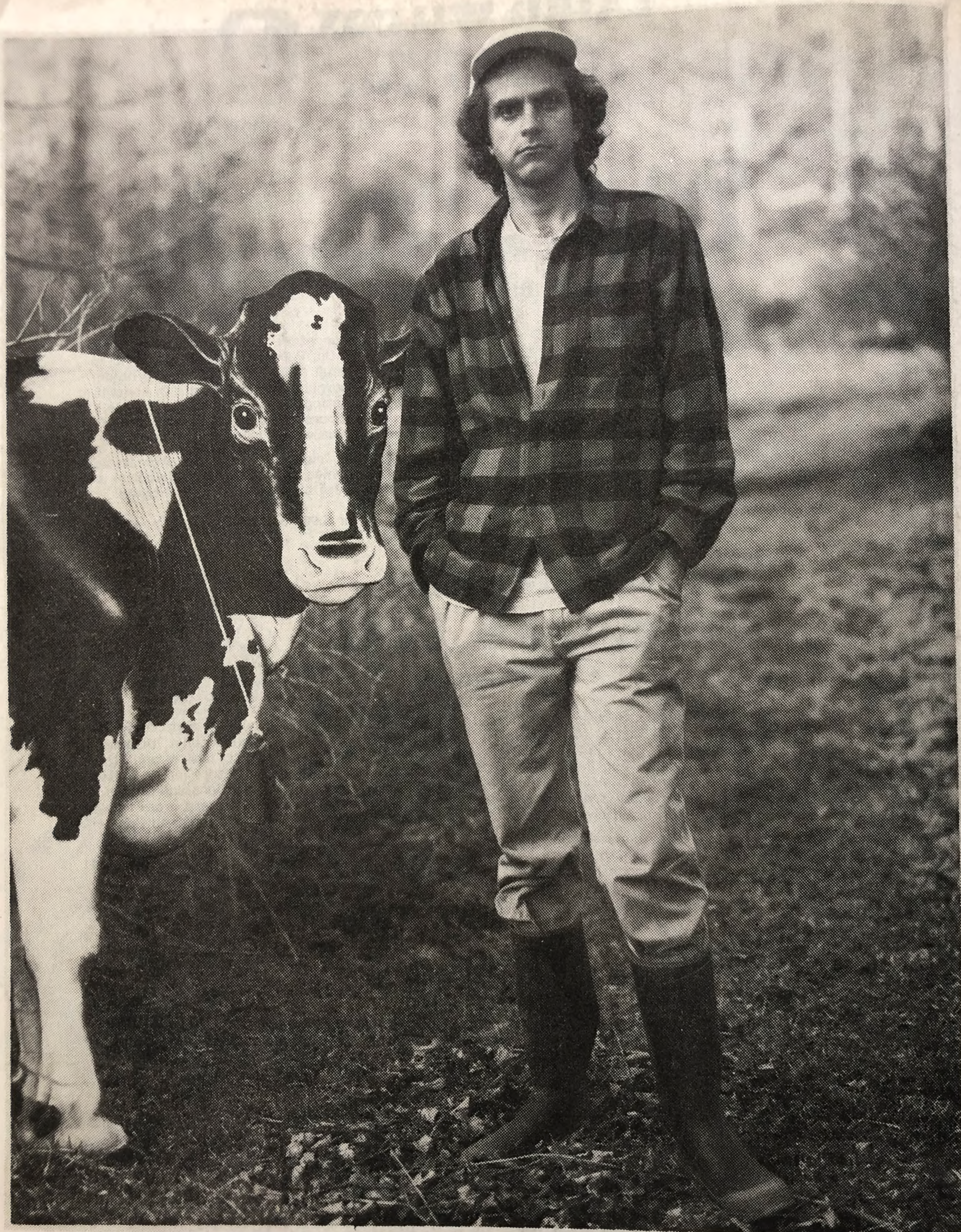
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